

Islamic news agency in plight

AMMAN (R) — The head of the Jeddah-based International Islamic News Agency (IINA) said Wednesday it was in a critical situation with no money to pay its 30 staff. Acting Director-General Ahmad Farraj said: "The agency's situation is still critical. We have a big financial problem. We need funds to pay salaries and debts." The agency, set up by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in 1972, runs on contributions from the 46 OIC members. Mr. Farraj, questioned about press reports on the plight of IINA, told Reuters in a telephone interview he presented a detailed report to the OIC summit in Kuwait last month. He said the OIC meeting decided to form a committee to study ways of reviving the agency. Mr. Farraj said he did not know when the committee would meet.

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Arap Moi accepts King's invitation

NAIROBI (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh delivered a message on Wednesday to Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi from His Majesty King Hussein. The message included an invitation for the Kenyan leader to visit Jordan. The president accepted the invitation and promised to make it as soon as possible. He asked Dr. Hamzeh to convey his best wishes to the King and success for his efforts for reestablishing stability and peace in the Middle East region. The Kenyan president expressed hope that his visit to Jordan would mark the beginning of a new era of economic and political cooperation between Kenya and Jordan. Dr. Hamzeh is in Kenya attending a health conference organised by the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

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CBJ reports higher deposits

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) announced on Wednesday that its deposits of gold and foreign currency amounted to JD 780.1 million by the end of November 1986, registering an increase of JD 29.535 million over deposits registered at the end of same month of the previous year. The announcement said that out of the amount, the CBJ owned JD 366.767 million and the local commercial banks owned the rest of the amount.

Kuwait reiterates hope for summit

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah on Wednesday reiterated calls for a long-delayed Arab summit to be convened. "We are in need of a meeting at this time because of dangers facing the Arab World and conspiracies directed against it," he told reporters. He said contacts between Arab leaders on the sidelines of an Islamic summit in Kuwait last month were positive and he hoped they would pave the way for a summit to be held soon.

Berri: Waite will be freed 'very soon'

BEIRUT (R) — Shi'ite Muslim militia chieftain Nabih Berri said Wednesday that missing Anglican church hostage negotiator Terry Waite will be released "very soon." Mr. Berri spoke at a news conference in Damascus. He said last Friday that Mr. Waite would be released "within 48 hours." But so far there has been no sign of the burly Briton who disappeared in late Beirut Jan. 20. Mr. Berri on Wednesday rejected a claim by the Revolutionary Justice Organisation, which holds Americans and French hostages, that Mr. Waite was a spy. "This man is a respected man of religion, of international reputation. He is straight and honest, and his role is only to be a referee (mediator)," Mr. Berri said in English.

Aziz in Paris

PARIS (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz arrived on Wednesday from Baghdad, airport officials said. They said Mr. Aziz declined to comment on the purpose of his visit or to say how long he planned to stay in France. France has close military and economic ties with Iraq but the right-wing government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has also sought to improve relations with Iran.

Shevardnadze and Cordovez see progress towards Afghan peace

MOSCOW (R) — Diego Cordovez, the United Nations mediator in the Afghan conflict, and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze agreed on Wednesday progress had been made towards ending the war, the official news agency TASS said. "They stated that definite progress has been achieved in this area and that there are chances for further headway," the agency said. Mr. Cordovez, who met First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov on Tuesday, is due to mediate in talks between Afghan and Pakistani officials starting in Geneva on Feb. 25.

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King returns after Damascus visit; talks centred on Lebanon

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein returned to Amman Wednesday after a 30-hour visit to Damascus where he and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held discussions on the latest developments in the Arab and international scenes and bilateral relations.

During the visit, the King and President Assad held two rounds of closed meetings in which expanded talks attended by senior officials from both sides. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who accompanied the King on the visit, as saying that the King's talks with the Syrian president were within the framework of continuing consultations between the two countries and dealt with various Arab and international issues of concern to both countries.

The King and President Assad reviewed the situation in Lebanon and means of helping the various factions in the strife-torn country to achieve their common goal of national reconciliation that would help the country regain its unity and sovereignty on its territory. Mr. Rifai was quoted as saying, "Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, who is at odds with President Assad after scuttling a Syrian-sponsored peace plan for Lebanon early last year, visited Jordan last week. Reports said

that he had requested the King to assume a mediatory role to settle his differences with Mr. Assad and arrange for an early Lebanese-Syrian summit.

In his statement to Petra, Mr. Rifai said the Damascus talks between the King and the Syrian president also dealt with the situation in and around Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and South Lebanon where the Shi'ite Amal militia has been mounting a siege for the past 15 weeks. The two leaders agreed on the necessity to halt the fighting around the camps and avert further damages and tragedies to the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, Mr. Rifai said.

On bilateral relations, the prime minister said, the King and President Assad expressed satisfaction with the progress of cooperation between the two countries and issued directives to their respective governments to pursue

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Amal blocks supplies to Bourj Al Barajneh despite truce

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Shi'ite Amal militiamen on Wednesday turned back truckloads of emergency food for a besieged Beirut refugee camp where residents are reported to have eaten rats to survive.

Sources with the Amal militia said the last-minute hitch was caused by disagreement over details of a peace plan to end Lebanon's "four-month-old 'camp' war" that has killed at least 750 people.

They said the entry of food supplies into the Bourj Al Barajneh camp was postponed until Thursday after Amal militiamen failed to move back into positions in a strategic South Lebanese village.

"Our militiamen could not deploy in Maghdoush (village) so the operation was postponed until tomorrow," an Amal source told reporters at one entrance to the camp.

Medical workers said refugees had eaten cats and dogs and even rats to survive the 15-week-old Amal siege.

Amal lost its positions in Maghdoush last November to

Palestinians, who said they took the village to ease pressure on camps in Beirut and South Lebanon besieged by Amal.

The Palestinians withdrew last month from the village, commanding the main highway from Beirut to the south. Neutral militiamen replaced the Palestinians, but Amal rejected this move.

Amal sources said an agreement, reached Tuesday night between Amal chief Nabih Berri and Palestinians in Damascus, provided for Amal to take back the positions from the neutral force.

Trucks loaded with rice and flour had waited for several hours near the western entrance of Bourj Al Barajneh.

Eye-witnesses told Reuters the trucks, one supplied by the Iranian embassy and one by Palestinians, carried three tonnes of rice and flour for the 30,000 refugees in the camp.

Pauline Cutting, a British surgeon who has worked at the camp's Haifa Hospital throughout the siege, told reporters by radio on Tuesday the refugees had been forced to eat cats, dogs

and even rats to survive.

"I have eaten dogs myself... and I have seen many, many others eat cats and dogs," said the 36-year-old doctor, one of four foreign medical staff working at the hospital.

Bourj Al Barajneh's residents have asked religious leaders for permission to eat human flesh to survive, but Cutting said the people "have not resorted to that yet."

The request prompted an Arab League appeal on Tuesday to Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross organisations to send emergency aid to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, meanwhile, appealed to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to intervene personally "to save the lives of thousands of Palestinians" at Bourj Al Barajneh, the Libyan news agency JANA reported.

The agency quoted the message as saying: "We request you to intervene personally to save the lives of

(Continued on page 3)

McFarlane still faces questioning

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert C. McFarlane's apparent suicide attempt is prompting an outpouring of shock and sympathy, but lawmakers say that after his recovery the president's former national security adviser will still face tough questions over the sale of U.S. arms to Iran.

Mr. McFarlane, 49, was visited Tuesday by his wife, Jonda, but did not receive telephone calls at Bethesda Naval Hospital in a Maryland suburb of Washington.

"Tough questions will be asked" about the arms sales, said Republican Representative Michael Dewine, a member of the House of Representatives Select Committee investigating the sales and possible diversion of funds to Nicaraguan rebels.

The house panel, like a similar special senate committee, is not expected to begin public hearings in the case until mid-April.

Mr. McFarlane remained in good condition Wednesday, the day after police said he took between 25 and 30 tablets of the tranquilliser valium.

A police source characterised the pill overdose as an attempted suicide, but officially, authorities said only there was no evidence of foul play.

President Ronald Reagan spoke to Mrs. McFarlane by telephone on Tuesday, according to White House spokesman Ben Jarrett. Details of the conversation were not available, he said.

Hostages-for-prisoners swap could take weeks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Indirect talks for a possible hostages-for-prisoners deal between Lebanese militants and Israel could last weeks, political sources said Wednesday.

They told Reuters that any negotiations would have to be conducted through a third, and possibly a fourth, party and this procedure would in itself take some time to establish.

There has been no indication so far that such talks have started.

The sources said Tuesday kidnappers had sent the Red Cross a list of some 400 Arab prisoners they want Israel to free in a three-way deal which could lead to the release of three Americans and an Indian held hostage in Lebanon.

The leader of the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia, Nabih Berri, told Reuters in Damascus his offer to swap an Israeli airman held by his men for the Arab prisoners still stood.

He said he had made no direct or indirect contact for the release of the four hostages.

One political source in Beirut said: "The International Red Cross in Geneva and Damascus are two places where contacts may be arranged."

"Any release will not be done in Geneva. It will be in South Lebanon and the Lebanese (prisoners) will probably be handed over to the Amal militia. Even the Palestinians are likely to be handed over in the south."

Israeli leaders denied that Israel was involved in negotia-

tions to swap prisoners for the captured Israeli airman in a deal that would include the release of the four hostages in Beirut.

Asked about news reports that talks on a swap were under way, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters: "Your information is premature and unfounded."

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, asked about the same reports, replied: "It's news to me."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday Israel might consider the proposal by Mr. Berri to free an Israeli navigator believed held by his Amal group in exchange for the 400 prisoners.

The Israeli newspaper Davar reported from Washington that contacts were in progress among the United States, Israel, Syria, Switzerland, the Red Cross, Amal and other militia groups over a possible three-way exchange.

The White House said Wednesday it wanted U.S. allies to know that the United States was not negotiating for hostages.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater for the third consecutive day reiterated a U.S. policy against ransoming hostages or encouraging other countries to do so.

Another underground group that holds two American hostages claimed the United States was planning a rescue effort in collaboration with Israel and vowed "very cruel" retaliation.



His Majesty King Hussein meets with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus on Wednesday (Petra photo)

Israelis arrest 50 Arabs, order 9 jailed without trial

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities arrested 50 Palestinians at a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday and ordered nine of them held without trial for three to six months for anti-occupation activities.

A wave of protests followed the arrests and Israeli soldiers fired tear-gas and rubber bullets at Palestinian demonstrators who hurled stones, metal objects and firebombs.

The arrests took place in an overnight swoop at Balata refugee camp near Nablus, scene of frequent acts of resistance against the Israeli occupation.

Police said nine of those arrested, aged 19 to 25, would be placed in "administrative detention," a measure dating to the pre-1948 British mandate over Palestine which allowed jailing

without trial.

Police said they believed the nine were involved in "incitement," throwing stones at Israeli troops and vehicles and threatening local residents suspected of collaborating with the authorities. Five are to be held for three months while the other four will be jailed for six months.

The other 41 arrested were held in connection with incidents at Balata refugee camp on Sunday when Israeli troops wounded three Arab demonstrators, police said.

Balata, with 11,000 residents, is the largest refugee camp on the West Bank.

Women relatives of those arrested later staged a peaceful protest march from the camp to Nablus town hall where they held a sit-in strike.

Israeli troops also fired teargas at hundreds of Palestinians who

attacked soldiers and Israeli vehicles with stones and firebombs on Wednesday.

There were no reported injuries in the violence which spread from Nablus to neighbouring refugee camps and to Ramallah, 10 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

The protest was in response to Israel's detention of the nine Palestinians without trial, Palestinian sources said.

The latest detentions brought to 48 the number of West Bank Palestinians held without trial, an Israeli spokesman said.

More than 200 students at Al Rawda College also protested by burning tires on a main road, stoning Israeli soldiers and waving Palestinian flags. The protesters fled after soldiers fired tear gas, the Palestine Press Service

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Iraqi planes raid Tehran

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its warplanes attacked Tehran twice on Wednesday and raided nine other Iranian cities and towns after a three-day lull.

A high command communiqué said Tehran was hit at 10 a.m. and one p.m. on the eighth anniversary of Iran's Islamic revolution.

Other planes raided Qom and Esfahan in central Iran, Khashabi, Nahavand, Borujerd and Shushir in western Iran, Reziyeb and Tabriz in the north-west, and for the first time, Qazvin 160 kilometres northwest of

Missile lands in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iranian surface-to-surface missile slammed into Baghdad on Wednesday, hours after Iraqi warplanes raided a dozen Iranian towns and cities in a resumption of the air war. Residents said the blast from the 10th missile attack on the Iraqi capital this year resounded across the city of 4.5 million people and shook houses several kilometres from the site of the impact. Residents said they heard sirens of fire engines and ambulances rushing towards the site of Wednesday's missile strike as a black column of smoke and dust spiralled into the sky, Iraqi authorities did not pinpoint the exact location of the impact for security reasons and have not issued casualty figures for the previous nine missile attacks.

Tehran. Military camps and missile sites were also hit, the communiqué said.

Bad weather had apparently grounded Iraqi aircraft for the past three days and Baghdad issued no reports on ground fighting during the same period.

Iraq had launched almost daily air raids against Iranian cities and towns since Tehran opened its "Karbala 5" ground offensive towards the southern Iraqi port of Basra on Jan. 9.

Khamenei: No moderates in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei said Wednesday the United States was wrong to believe there are moderate leaders in Iran with whom it could resume contacts.

But he declared in a speech broadcast by Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, that Iran's attitude to the United States could change if Americans tried to "win the hearts of the nation" by ending their "hostility, their enmity and their hatred."

"Gradually, in the course of many years, it is possible that the views of the people concerning the leaders of the American regime might change."

"However, this nation today... continues decisively, strongly and realistically to regard America as the great Satan and as its greatest enemy," Mr. Khamenei said.

President Ronald Reagan said in November that he had opened contacts with "moderate elements" in the Tehran leadership in an effort to resume ties with Iran, severed since November 1979.

Mr. Reagan also said that he

had shipped arms to Iran as part of a deal to establish relations.

Mr. Khamenei was the first Iranian leader to comment on the American claim there is what could be considered a "moderate" faction in revolutionary Iran.

In recent days, political analysts inside and outside the U.S. administration have questioned Mr. Reagan's assertions that a moderate element exists in Tehran with which the United States could deal.

Mr. Khamenei said even if there were moderate elements within the Iranian leadership who supported ties with the United States, the Iranian people would not have accepted resumed links at this time.

"Would the people have ever allowed such a thing? Would this nation permit such a thing?" he declared.

Mr. Khamenei has been portrayed as one of the top five leaders in Iran who has favoured some form of contact with the United States.

Shultz to discuss int'l conference with Shamir

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The United States has told Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir it wants to discuss the possibility of an international Middle East peace conference when he visits Washington next week despite his hardline opposition, an Israeli spokesman said Wednesday.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz told Mr. Shamir in a telegram that they should consider an international conference aimed at leading Israel to direct talks with Arab countries, spokesman Yossi Ahimeir said.

He said Mr. Shamir felt no pressure from the Americans to accept the idea since the United States still favoured direct talks. Mr. Shamir received the telegram a few days ago and strongly reiterated his opposition to a peace conference.

"There is only one reason for the Americans raising the peace conference — because Jordan is insisting on it," Ahimeir told Reuters.

"It doesn't mean that Shultz supports it. He is saying we have to find all the ways to achieve the

goal of direct negotiations, including an international conference," he said.

Mr. Shamir, head of Israel's right-wing Likud bloc, leaves on Sunday for an 11-day trip in the United States. It is his first trip to Washington since swapping jobs four months ago with Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, now the foreign minister.

"There will be discussions," Ahimeir said. "He will state clearly how he feels. An international conference means Israel would be against the whole world. It would be under pressure to withdraw from all territories, including East Jerusalem."

As prime minister in 1985, Mr. Peres advanced the idea of an international peace "forum" or "framework" that would lead to direct talks. In October that year, parliament endorsed the concept but the coalition government has yet to act on it.

On Wednesday, the 10 cabinet ministers from Mr. Peres's Labour Party issued a statement after a meeting saying Mr. Shamir had no authority to ignore

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U.S. considers plan to improve Jordan's defences Administration seeks \$71.8m in aid to the Kingdom

Combined Agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration is considering a plan to help Jordan upgrade its fixed-base U.S. anti-aircraft weapons to a mobile system in part to stop the Kingdom from turning to the Soviet Union for arms. U.S. officials said Tuesday.

They also defended at a congressional hearing the administration's \$775,000 aid request for Lebanon, where at least eight Americans are being held hostage and U.S. officials say there is no central authority.

"The people who want us to get out are the Islamic radical groups who are taking hostages," Roscoe Suddarth, a deputy assistant secretary of defence, told the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

"I think it is a political statement not to cut and run."

The proposal to upgrade Jordan's improved Hawk (I-Hawk) missiles was criticised by some congressmen and was sure to draw protests from Israel, which balked at a 1985 administration plan to sell arms to Jordan.

I-Hawks are medium-range, all-weather missiles with a 40-kilometre range and the ability to climb to 19,000 metres.

The 1985 plan, which called for nearly \$2 billion worth of advanced weapons and planes including I-Hawks to go to Jordan, was withdrawn in January 1986 in the face of stiff congressional opposition. The administration said later it was still determined to sell arms to Jordan.

Robert Pelletreau, deputy assistant secretary of defence, said Jordan must make its fixed I-Hawk missile batteries less vulnerable to attack or soon purchase a new system.

"Jordan will have to turn to the Soviet Union" if the United States fails to help upgrade the missiles because Washington will not sell the Kingdom such a system and other suppliers are too expensive, he said.

Mr. Suddarth and Mr. Pelletreau were among four witnesses who testified before the committee on administration foreign assistance requests for Jordan, Yemen, Oman, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza, and for American schools and hospitals abroad.

Under the administration proposals, Jordan has been allocated \$71.8 million in economic and military assistance; Lebanon, \$775,000; Oman, \$25.3 million; North Yemen, \$31.1 million; the West Bank, Gaza, hospitals and schools, \$20 million.

Breakdown of request

The administration is seeking a total of \$71.8 million for Jordan. The \$53.8 million in military assistance would be broken down into \$40 million for the military assistance programme (MAP), \$12 million for foreign military sales (FMS) credits and \$1.8 million for international military education and training (IMET).

When asked by Subcommittee Chairman Lee Hamilton if U.S. support for Jordan's military assistance was sufficient, Mr. Suddarth described it as "a modest military programme," in part, because Jordan receives subsidies from other nations. The State Department official said the U.S. would "like to do more," but was facing budget constraints.

The \$18 million in economic support funds (ESF) is divided into two components: \$11 million

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Iran: Jailed Briton ready to apologise

On Sunday, Iran released a Canadian engineer, Philip Eng, and he flew to Frankfurt, West Germany, on Tuesday. He had been held for two months of spying charges.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, in his speech to university professors and officials, did not mention the amnesty and there was no hint on whether or not it would apply to Cooper's case.

The parliament speaker said "a great number of prisoners repent" and that Cooper had

Egypt holds referendum to dissolve parliament today

CAIRO (R) — A national referendum Thursday on dissolving Egypt's parliament will start the countdown for mid-term elections expected on April 9.

President Hosni Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) and the five main opposition parties all favour dissolving the 448-seat People's Assembly, making a vote to end its nearly three-year life a foregone conclusion.

\$63,000 bequeathed to UNRWA

Mr. Mubarak called the referendum a week ago because of questions, including a court challenge, over the constitutional standing of the assembly and the

His main aim apparently was to clear doubts over parliament's authority before it nominates him next October for a second term.

Mr. Minbarak, 58, came to power in October 1981 when Muslim extremists shot dead President Anwar Sadat. For a second six-year term, he must be nominated by parliament and elected in a plebiscite.

More than 13 million Egyptians are eligible to vote in Thursday's referendum.

The referendum will determine the total vote to take up any of its seats.

They agreed Tuesday night to bury temporarily ideological differences — the opposition parties range from Socialist to old-guard conservative — and run for election on a single party ticket, probably that of the right-wing New Wafd Party.

This accord and the provision for independent candidates in some constituencies looked likely to ensure a bigger opposition in the assembly after April's expected polls.

The Middle East News Agency (MENA) said the opposition parties' meeting took place at the headquarters of the Waif Party, headed by Fouad Serageddin.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.			
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77311-19 PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Koran 15:50 Programme Review 15:55 Tom Sawyer 16:20 Children programmes 17:00 Huckleberry Finn 17:10 Local Health programme 18:00 Teaching French 18:30 Local contests programme 19:30 News programme 19:40 Programme Review and variety 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic series 21:30 Tomorrow's programmes 21:40 Arabic series 23:00 News Summary in Arabic 23:10 Play continued PROGRAMME TWO 15:00 Les festival du croque 19:00 News in French 19:15 La Vallée des peupliers 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 World Sports 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Paul Darnel Show 21:00 News in Arabic 21:30 News in English 22:30 Feature film: "Stranger in My Bed"		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * An exhibition of photos from Pompeii Centre in Paris at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 12). * An art exhibition by Spanish artist Pablo Vico at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Feb. 12). FEATURE FILM * "The Wild Bunch" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre. LECTURE * A lecture in Arabic by Dr. Waïd Gousous from the University of Jordan on legal aspects of insurance contracts in Jordan at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the Goethe Institute. CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubdoub, Tel. 67340. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 60177. The Holy Trinity Church (Catholic), Jabal Lubdoub, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel: 62366. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 62354. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 678906. American Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 77133. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 77526. Coptic Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 77175. Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist Centre, Tel. 67734. Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811295. Univ. of Jordan Library 843555		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alia International department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 09:00 Agaba (RU) 09:20 Cairo (RU) 09:25 Jeddah (RU) 10:05 Doha, Bahrain (RU) 10:05 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RU) 10:05 Dhahran, Kuwait (RU) 10:30 Cairo, Agaba (RU) 10:30 London (RU) 17:35 New York, Vienna (RU) 17:40 Athens (RU) 20:15 Rome (RU) 19:25 Bucharest, Larnaca (RU) 01:00 Baghdad (RU) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 10:30 Riyadh (SV) 11:45 Kuwait (LN) 12:30 Baghdad (IA) 13:00 Doha, Bahrain (GF) 13:45 Kuwait (LN) 14:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK) 18:30 Amsterdam, Damascus (KLM) 19:10 Frankfurt (LH) 19:35 London (BA) 22:00 Zurich, Larnaca (SR) 01:50 London, Baghdad (BA)		OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 06:40 Damascus, Athens (OA) 06:40 Damascus, Paris (AF) 11:30 Riyadh (SV) 13:30 Tripoli (LN) 13:30 Baghdad (IA) 14:00 Bahrain, Doha (GF) 15:00 Kuwait (LN) 15:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 20:00 Sana'a (LH) 20:20 Cairo, Agaba (RU) 03:00 London (BA)		EMERGENCIES Amman governorate 891228 Amman Civil Defence 198, 199 Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Amman 770723 Civil Defence Dair Alla 57306 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 198 First aid 63041 Blood Bank rescue 775335 Civil Defence 661111 Fire headquarters 6220933 Police rescue 192, 621 11, 637777 Police headquarters 639142 Traffic police 8963901 Electric Power Co. 6363814, 624881 Municipal water complaints 771258 Queen Alia Int. Airport (06)533040 GENERAL Jordan Television 77311/19 Radio Jordan 77411/19 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Medical complaints 66612 Price complaints 66176 Telephone information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 66192 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Issa Haddad 877007 Dr. Ahmad Othman 786384 Salam Pharmacy 636720 Nicropharm Pharmacy 726672 Khalid pharmacy 778683 Firas pharmacy 661912 Sahab pharmacy 668056 TAXIS: Al Walids taxi 641833 Khalid taxi 666888 Bassim taxi 811857 Hayan taxi 621227 Hayan taxi 81741 Balsam taxi 845120 Bahrain taxi 773034 Mashhour taxi 896743 REDD: Dr. Ahmad Beshawi 27925 Khalid pharmacy (-) Starna pharmacy (-) ZARQA: Dr. Khalid Abu Hussein 983001 Hani pharmacy (-)	
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FOR FRIDAY JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77311-19 PROGRAMME TWO 17:30 French Film: Cinema 10 orange 19:00 News in French 19:15 French Varieties 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 History of Medicine 20:00 Arabic series 20:30 Throbs (Comedy) 21:00 Weekly Preview 21:10 Falcon Crest 22:00 News in English 22:20 Paradise Postponed		ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 06:45 Agaba (RU) 10:30 Larnaca, Bucharest (SR) 10:45 Rome (RU) 11:30 Cairo (RU) 11:30 Athens (RU) 12:00 London (BA) 12:15 Brussels, Frankfurt (RU) 19:30 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RU) 21:00 Bahrain, Doha (RU) 21:00 Jeddah (RU) 21:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RU) 21:00 Baghdad (RU) 21:15 Cairo (RU) 21:30 Dubai, Muscat (RU) 22:00 Bangkok (RU)		OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 06:45 Damascus, Athens (OA) 06:45 Damascus, Paris (AF) 11:30 Riyadh (SV) 13:30 Tripoli (LN) 13:30 Baghdad (IA) 14:00 Bahrain, Doha (GF) 15:00 Kuwait (LN) 15:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 20:00 Sana'a (LH) 20:20 Cairo, Agaba (RU) 03:00 London (BA)		DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 06:45 Agaba (RU) 10:30 Larnaca, Bucharest (SR) 10:45 Rome (RU) 11:30 Cairo (RU) 11:30 Athens (RU) 12:00 London (BA) 12:15 Brussels, Frankfurt (RU) 19:30 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RU) 21:00 Bahrain, Doha (RU) 21:00 Jeddah (RU) 21:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RU) 21:00 Baghdad (RU) 21:15 Cairo (RU) 21:30 Dubai, Muscat (RU) 22:00 Bangkok (RU)			

Queen Noor to visit music conservatory today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will visit the National Music Conservatory on Thursday to review the progress of its violin programme. This programme was launched with the inauguration of the National Music Conservatory on Oct. 3, 1986 by the Nour Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with the Jordan Society in Washington D.C. On Thursday, upon the completion of the first phase of the violin programme, Her Majesty will be briefed about its development, progress and future prospects.

During her visit, Her Majesty will attend a violin group lesson with the conservatory's 20 students who will also treat Her Majesty to a performance of two pieces. These will be "Dance Joesy" and "Hoe Down".

Conducting the group lesson and the performance will be Mrs. Sheila Johnson — the U.S. music instructor who has developed the successful new violin teaching method — the Rolland Pedagogy — which is being applied at the conservatory. This method stresses proper balance and control through natural body movement and enjoyable learning environments. It is being used in instructing string players in a number of music programmes in England, Switzerland and the USA.

Mrs. Johnson, who has also assisted with the establishment and inauguration of the violin programme here in Jordan, is currently visiting the conservatory to evaluate the progress being made by its 40 students and to recruit and train new violin instructors to accommodate the conservatory's immediate plans to increase its student enrollment.

The National Music Conservatory is also planning to launch its viola and cello and theory programmes by September 1987 as another step towards reaching its ultimate goal of offering instruction to talented Jordanian youngsters aged 6-18 in a variety of eastern and western orchestral instruments.

Rifai to brief deputies on Kuwait summit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai will today brief a closed Lower House of Parliament session on the outcome of both the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting held in Kuwait last month and His Majesty King Hussein's recent visits to France, Italy and the Vatican.

Mr. Rifai, the deputies and the House's foreign affairs committee will also discuss the recent political developments in the region.

Thursday's closed session is being held upon a request by Agaba Deputy Ati Ali El'izz who asked House Speaker Akel Al Fayez to arrange for such an assembly.

During a House session 10 days ago, Mr. Abu El'izz said: "Numerous developments have taken place since the Kuwait summit and after King Hussein's working trips to Europe, on which we'd like to be briefed." In response, Mr. Fayez welcomed the proposal and said a closed meeting would be arranged.

Spanish archaeologists begin excavation work at Jerash

AMMAN (Petra) — A Spanish archaeological team has embarked on an excavation season within the Greco-Roman city of Jerash to complete the excavation of a large building with semi-circular recesses that used to serve as a centre for cultural and commercial activities for the townspeople around the Second Century A.D.

A spokesman for the Department of Antiquities said that after the completion of the excavation work, the department will embark on restoration work and will re-construct some parts of the building in accordance with a plan worked out in 1981.

King returns after talks in Damascus on Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

efforts aimed at serving their common goals.

In addition to attending expanded talks between the King and President Assad, senior officials from both countries held discussions on bilateral relations and cooperation.

Mr. Rifai held a round of talks with his Syrian counterpart Abdul Raouf Al Kasim on Tuesday. On Wednesday, he met with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and discussed means to bolster bilateral relations.

The prime minister also held a second round of talks with Dr. Kasim on Wednesday.

The Jordanian side to the talks included Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Jordanian Ambassador to Syria Ali Khreis. On the Syrian side the talks were attended by Deputy Prime Minister Salim Yassin and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa. The discussions focused on means to further bolster trade and economic ties between Jordan and Syria, Petra said.

President Assad hosted a dinner on Tuesday night in honour of the King and the delegation accompanying him. It was attended by Syrian Vice-President Mohammed Zuheir Masharqa, Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas and cabinet members in

King visits Swareddahab after successful heart surgery

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday evening visited Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swareddahab, former head of the military council of Sudan, who underwent successful open heart surgery, at the King Hussein Medical Centre. During his visit, the King enquired about Field Marshal Swareddahab's health and wished him a speedy recovery.

Accompanying the King on the visit were Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Lieutenant-General Dr. Daoud Hanania, director of the Armed Forces Royal Medical Services, and senior heart specialists working for the Royal Medical Services.

Field Marshal Swareddahab was resting after the operation and his condition was described as very satisfactory by chief cardiologist at the centre, Dr. Youssef Qousus. Dr. Qousus told the Jordan Times that Field Marshal Swareddahab had a high grade obstruction in the left anterior descending coronary artery which came to light following a general medical check-up he underwent earlier at the King Hussein Medical Centre. Field Marshal Swareddahab underwent a coronary by-pass surgery conducted by Dr. Hanania and his condition was very satisfactory, Dr. Qousus said. He added that Field Mar-

shal Swareddahab could be discharged in a week's time.

Dr. Hanania described the operation as "100 per cent successful." Field Marshal Swareddahab was ending a visit to Jordan at the invitation of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan when he was admitted to the King Hussein Medical Centre for checkups and for a re-examination of medical reports conducted in Sudan, Dr. Hanania pointed out. He said that the reports and the checkups showed the presence of a high grade obstruction of the left anterior descending coronary artery and Field Marshal Swareddahab asked to undergo the operation at the centre.

There have been no complications or side effects of any kind during and after the operation and Field Marshal Swareddahab could return to his normal activities in a week's time from now, Dr. Hanania added.

King Hussein made a telephone call on Wednesday morning from Damascus, where he was on a visit for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, in order to enquire about Field Marshal Swareddahab.

Prince Hassan visits heart centre

Also, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan visited the Queen Alia Heart Centre to be assured about Field Marshal Swareddahab's health after the operation and the Crown Prince wished him speedy recovery.

Dr. Hanania said that such heart operations are frequently conducted at the centre and in date a total of 6,500 open heart operations have been successfully carried out here.

Municipal teams check hygiene standards at dairy stores

AMMAN (Petra) — Teams from the Greater Amman Municipality have embarked on an intensive campaign to ensure that stores which deal with processing and selling milk products, especially white cheese, are abiding by sanitary and health regulations.

Dr. Talal Khleifat, assistant to the deputy mayor, said that the campaign was a preventive measure against food poisoning which may result from the consumption of contaminated milk and cheese.

Dr. Khleifat said that Malta Fever, diarrhoea and other diseases may be contracted by eating dairy products which have not been processed properly.

He called on proprietors of food stores to ensure that they abide by regulations concerning hygiene and sanitary conditions.

He said that a rise in food poisoning cases are often reported during this season as local milk and dairy production increases around this time.

Dudin, UNRWA officials discuss agency's services to refugees

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Commissioner of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Mr. Robert Dillon on Wednesday praised existing cooperation between the agency and Jordan and the Kingdom's endeavours to help UNRWA carry out its mission and offer services to Palestinian refugees.

Mr. Dillon, who was speaking during a meeting held with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin, also voiced appreciation for Jordan's efforts to persuade donor nations

to increase their contributions to UNRWA to enable it to shoulder its various responsibilities.

At the meeting, which was attended by UNRWA Director in Jordan Ele Sami, Mr. Dillon spoke about UNRWA's medium-range plans for the coming three years. The implementation of this plan, he said, requires more contributions from donor countries and also contributions from other non-donor nations.

UNRWA will continue to hold contacts with different world nations urging them to contribute

generously to help the agency carry out its programmes and honour its commitments, Mr. Dillon said. The minister and the UNRWA officials discussed the agency's financial situation, its general budget and the services it offers to Palestinian refugees.

Mr. Dudin said that the Jordanian government will continue to extend all possible assistance to UNRWA to help it implement its plans.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

U.S. studying plan to improve Jordan's defences

(Continued from page 1)

for Jordan and \$7 million for Jordan's West Bank/Gaza development programme. The ESF will be used to support highlands agriculture, water, sewerage services, health and projects which support Jordan's private sector as the central "engine for development."

According to Robert Bell, deputy assistant administrator for Asia and the Near East, U.S. Agency for International Development, "we will be working with Jordan's public sector to create a more favourable policy environment for the private sector." The \$7 million for the West Bank and Gaza will be used to support a variety of projects in education, agriculture and industry.

The administration's request for funds for a Middle East regional programme totals \$20 million with \$12 million in grants for the West Bank and Gaza. Another \$8 million is sought for Israeli and Egyptian joint scientific and technical projects. \$1 million is sought for population programmes, legal training, project design and evaluation in the Middle East and South Asia by AID for multi-country development programmes. Finally, \$2 million is sought for the American University of Beirut "to preserve, we believe, an important U.S. institution in the Middle East," according to Mr. Suddarth.

Mr. Pelletreau told the house committee that Jordan already had permitted "a small number of Soviet advisers" to remain in the Kingdom to help maintain previously purchased Soviet-made missiles and anti-aircraft guns.

Mr. Pelletreau said officials were seeking a way to improve Jordanian defences without provoking rejection from Congress. He said the Reagan administration already had decided to sell Jordan 100 copperhead guided anti-tank shells which do not require congressional approval.

But without more significant help, he said, Jordan would have to turn elsewhere for much needed improvements to its defences, and the most likely supplier would be the Soviet Union.

In the face of an overwhelmingly pro-Israel U.S. Congress last year, Mr. Reagan withdrew a proposed \$1.9-billion arms sale to Jordan including F-16 or F-20 jet fighter planes, armoured personnel carriers and Hawk and Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

Referring to the congressional opposition, Mr. Pelletreau said, "We're just not in a position to

provide" Jordan with sophisticated warplanes or more advanced missiles.

Mr. Pelletreau said the administration was studying whether there is a way to change the basis of the deployment of the Hawks, which the United States required to be fixed in silos to meet the objections of Israel.

"Jordan has an obsolescent defence ... with the Hawks locked in concrete," he said.

The missiles, designed to be mobile, were put in silos in the mid-1970s so that they only be used to defend against an attack from the north but could not be used against an attack from the west.

"Those sites have become more and more vulnerable, they are moving close and close to being sitting ducks," Mr. Pelletreau said.

There are 14 batteries of the missiles, and U.S. officials estimated it would cost \$50 million to disperse them adequately, he said. The administration is proposing \$52 million in military aid for Jordan next year, but has not yet decided how it should be spent, he said.

Mr. Pelletreau said Jordan bought the Soviet weapons — SAM-8, SAM-13 and SAM-14 surface-to-air missiles and ZSU-23 anti-aircraft guns — on occasions when the United States previously refused to sell the Kingdom arms.

U.S. to discuss int'l conference

(Continued from page 1)

parliament's decision — a decision it said the government had not rejected.

"Mr. Shamir must make clear to the leaders of the countries he will meet that his opposition to an international peace conference is his own and not that of the government," the Labour statement said.

Mr. Peres has said Israel would agree to a conference if the Soviet Union first renewed ties with the Jewish state, if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was excluded, and if the conference led to direct Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Though he reiterated his opposition to an international peace conference on the Middle East, Mr. Shamir told parliament on Tuesday he did not object to Mr. Peres exploring the idea.

Responding in parliament to accusations that the government contained two opposing views, Mr. Shamir said: "Israel will be as if on trial before a tribunal in

Jordan, India agree to operate direct air link

Indian civil aviation minister leaves after delivering message to King from Gandhi

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a message from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The message was delivered by Indian Minister of Civil Aviation Mr. Jagdish Tytler, who was in Amman holding talks with Jordanian officials on launching a direct air link between India and Jordan.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakqan and Indian Ambassador to Jordan Gurcharan Singh.

The audience followed the signing of a memorandum of understanding aimed at bolstering bilateral cooperation in air transport.

The memorandum provides for the Royal Jordanian airline to

left for home.

Flights between Jordan and India are at present routed through Gulf countries and a direct link would enable Jordan to share the traffic of an estimated 10,000 Indian Christians who travel each year to the Israeli occupied West Bank to visit the holy places there. In addition, there are an estimated 4,000 Indians, mainly labourers employed in Jordan. It is also expected that Jordanians studying in Indian universities will benefit from direct flights which will eliminate lengthy transit stops in the Gulf.

The Indian delegation included: Mr. V. Patnayak, joint secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Dr. S. Bhatt, director of information and regulations of the directorate-general of civil aviation, as well as several other senior officials.

EC gives assistance to faculty of engineering

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) and Jordan on Wednesday signed an agreement under which the EC will grant the University of Jordan two million European Currency Units (ECU), nearly \$2.25 million. The grant will finance the purchase of equipment and technical training for staff working for the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the University of Jordan.

An EC spokesman said that the grant is part of 19 million ECU grant to Jordan, promised by the EC to help the country carry out various development projects. The EC pledged to provide the grant under an agreement both

sides signed in 1982, the spokesman said.

The spokesman told the Jordan Times that Jordan and the EC will, in the coming 10 days, sign two other agreements under which Jordan will receive \$4.58 million.

The first agreement will be for financing the Awassi sheep improvement project for \$2.33 million, and the other will be in the form of assistance for the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and will amount to \$2.25 million, the spokesman said.

The agreement on Wednesday was signed by Minister of Planning Taher Kanan and EC representative in Jordan, Dr. Romano Landini.

Muasher addresses Arab economic, social council

RIYADH (Agencies) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher on Wednesday underlined the importance of promoting trade among Arab countries and the need to boost inter-Arab economic cooperation. The minister was addressing a meeting of the Arab League Economic and Social Council which opened in the Saudi Arabian capital on Wednesday.

Dr. Muasher said the current meeting was important because it was scheduled to tackle inter-Arab trade, particularly during this critical economic stage. The minister expressed hope that the two-day meeting, which is being attended by Arab economy, finance and trade ministers, would arrive at successful results.

Saudi Arabian Finance and National Economy Minister Mohammed Ali Abal Khalil told the meeting that trade between Arab states was declining. He said exports between Arab

countries from 1980 to 1984 averaged only 5.2 per cent of their total world exports while inter-Arab imports accounted for about 11 per cent.

Raw materials constituted 95 per cent of total Arab exports in 1984 while industrial goods accounted for 74 per cent of total Arab imports during the same year.

"This is a pointer bow Arabs depend on western nations to develop their economies," Mr. Abal Khalil said.

He called for effective measures to boost Arab trade by implementing an agreement to this effect endorsed by Alesco three years ago.

Inaugurating the session, Saudi Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz said his country had always sought to expand Arab trade and the council should exert more efforts to this end.

Oil company to sponsor new dig at Ain Ghazal

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A foreign oil firm operating in Jordan has announced that it plans a major contribution to the forthcoming season of archaeological excavations at the Stone Age village of Ain Ghazal where work is expected to resume next June.

According to a press release issued on Wednesday by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), the Amman subsidiary of the American Oil Company (Amoco) undertook to be a "major sponsor" of the Ain Ghazal archaeological project. The release did not disclose the volume or type of assistance the company was contemplating.

Amoco, a leading American oil company, is currently exploring for crude oil in several regions in the Kingdom under a concession agreement signed with the government.

Since excavations began at the Ain Ghazal site in 1981, the project shed light on one of the largest Middle East civilisations dating from the Neolithic or the "new Stone Age" period, roughly between 8000 and 4000 B.C.

About 12 well-preserved large statues dating back some 9000 years have been excavated from the site, according to director of the Department of Antiquities Adnan Al Hadidi. Two of the statues recently went on exhibition in Paris as part of an exhibition entitled "The King's Highway: 9000 Years of Art in the Kingdom of Jordan."

The statues had been shipped to the U.S. and London for treatment and conservation before they went on show," Dr. Hadidi told the Jordan Times.

Expenses at the site amounted to approximately JD 15,000 during the operational years, apart from other, additional expenses, according to Dr. Hadidi.

REQUIEM

A requiem will be held for the elapse of 6 months since the passing away of

Mrs. Adi Pattermann Sawalha, wife of Ghaleb "Mike" Salim Sawalha.

The requiem will be held at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, 1987 at the Virgin Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifiah in Amman. The family of the late Mrs. Sawalha invites relatives and friends to attend the requiem.

Amal blocks supplies to Bourj Al Barajneh

(Continued from page 1)

thousands of Palestinians who are facing death in the Bourj Al Barajneh camp because of the banning by the Amal movement of relief convoys entering the camp... a fact which is being denounced by mankind and an act such as world history has not to this date witnessed.

Libya's number two, Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, has been in Damascus for about 10 weeks seeking to mediate an end to the Lebanon "camps war."

Meanwhile, guns were silent in Beirut and South Lebanon on Wednesday as Palestinian and Amal fighters observed the Syrian-brokered ceasefire.

The ceasefire accord, the latest in a series of abortive attempts to contain the Shi'ite-Palestinian confrontation, went into effect at 8 a.m., police and Palestinian spokesmen said.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has called for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss relief aid to the camps, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

The meeting, requested by PLO leader Yasser Arafat, would discuss food and medical supplies to Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila camps in Beirut and to Al Rashidiyah in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Arafat on Tuesday sent an urgent message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, asking for his help in breaking the blockade of the Palestinian camps and achieving a ceasefire.

Wafa said it was the second message from Mr. Arafat to Mr. Gorbachev within three days.

Earlier PLO communiques said "a real hunger crisis" gripped the Bourj Al Barajneh population. That prompted Morocco's King Hassan II to announce Monday

that an aircraft had been prepared to parachute food and medical supplies to the besieged Palestinians in Beirut.

The monarch asked for permission for the operation from Lebanon's president, Amin Gemayel, and Mr. Berri.

There was no official word whether a go-ahead for the operation had been given by either leader.

In Damascus, Mr. Berri told Reuter he had been promised that Palestinians would withdraw completely from areas — including Maghdoush village — east of Lebanon's southern port of Sidon back to their refugee camps on Wednesday.

French President Francois Mitterrand has asked his government to organise immediate medical and food aid for the Palestinians trapped in Beirut's refugee camps, a spokeswoman said in Paris.

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Steps towards joint action

HIS Majesty King Hussein's just-concluded visit to Damascus and his extensive talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad are another major effort by the leadership of this country to solidify and strengthen relations between Amman and Damascus, and further proof that Jordan would not spare any effort to close Arab ranks in the service of the higher aims of the Arab Nation on the other hand.

His Majesty's trip is no doubt aimed at achieving harmony, not only between our two countries, but also among all Arab countries. And as such, Jordan proves once again that it will leave no stone unturned in the quest for a united Arab front in these critical moments in the history of the Arab World.

We think that pending the solution of the issue of convening an Arab summit, Arab leaders should make it a point to maintain regular contact and consultation with each other.

Personal contacts between Arab leaders should be made more often, even institutionalised, even though we may have Arab summits now and then. There is little doubt that within the context of summits, Arab leaders are less likely to speak their mind with frankness and directness. In summits, the Arab leaders are also more likely to adopt public resolutions that may not offer as practical solutions to common problems as the circumstances demand.

Personal contacts are normally warm and friendly and can be made away from the limelight of conference rooms and the pressure imposed on the deliberations by the presence of so many leaders all at once. This is not to suggest that bilateral contacts should be a substitute for Arab summits; rather, the former should pave the way for successful Arab summits which can be held regularly and whenever the need arises.

Problems of the Arab World cannot be solved overnight or only through personal contacts or even summits, it is true. But through his continued efforts and meetings with Arab leaders, His Majesty is showing the way for all those who would like to see joint Arab action at work again.

The Arab World knows that there is no alternative to working together if we are to make progress towards our aims and objectives. What Jordan does in its attempts to close ranks, therefore, should be an example for other Arab countries to follow.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Looking towards Damascus

KING Hussein's visit to Damascus and his meetings with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad are part of Jordan's endeavours for formulating a common stand based on mutual understanding and confidence. The talks are bound to serve Arab causes because they deal with pressing issues of concern to Syria and Jordan, and challenges that confront both countries. The meetings in Damascus come at a time when the Arab Nation is faced with continued challenges and remains threatened by Israel's acts of aggression and exposed to foreign hegemony. What is hoped from these talks is agreement on joint stands and joint actions, serving Arab people, and safeguarding their national rights and interests. Vigilance and interaction on the part of the people remain the best support and backing for their leaders who try to reach understanding and cooperation on common action and joint stands. Both the leaders and their masses are steadfast and are firm in their stand, working in unison for regaining Arab rights and re-establishing justice and permanent peace. The Arab masses are behind their leaders in Jordan and Syria, and they look to the meeting in Damascus with hope and with optimism. They feel joint steps are bound to lead to salvation.

Al Dustour: Hope for the masses

AS part of his efforts for re-establishing solidarity among Arab countries and in line with Jordan's firm national policies King Hussein continues his talks with Arab leaders and spares no effort in trying to serve national interests. The King's talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus are part in this endeavour and in pursuit of achieving this end. There is no doubt that the critical circumstances the Arab Nation is going through at present, and the challenges that it continues to face require close coordination of efforts on the part of Arab leaders and continued consultation and cooperation. King Hussein has devoted his life and his efforts to serve Arab national interests, and the Arab masses are attaching great hopes to such endeavours. The King realises that this nation has no alternative but to pool its resources and its efforts and work in unison and with closed ranks if it wants to safeguard its interests. The meeting in Damascus is of paramount importance to the Arab masses and the whole nation, and we look with hope to the outcome and look forward towards further unified steps and joint actions that would enhance the Arab stand.

Sawt Al Shaab: Leaders discuss national ills

AS Jordan and Syria shoulder a huge burden of national responsibilities, and together, continue to face the common challenges of the Israeli enemy, it is natural for the leaders of the two countries to hold regular meetings and discuss issue of concern to their countries and the Arab World at large. The important meetings of King Hussein and President Hafez Al Assad of Syria in Damascus are bound to cover the Gulf war, the situation in Lebanon and other issues of concern to the Arab Nation at present. Both leaders are interested in seeing an international conference being held to resolve the Middle East question and both are concerned about the continued occupation of Arab territories by Israeli forces and the fate of the Palestinians in their homeland and in the diaspora. Syria and Jordan have a long confrontation line with Israel, and both leaders are therefore bound to find means of defending their countries and the Arab World beyond. Perhaps this meeting in Damascus would pave the way for a greater measure of understanding among Arab countries and an Arab summit conference for all Arab countries later on. Perhaps this meeting will serve as a first step towards re-establishing all Arab solidarity and joint action against the common enemies of the Arab Nation.

Israeli manipulation of U.S. media exposed

The following article is reprinted from the London-based The Middle East magazine.

A report by American freelance journalist Robert Friedman, scheduled to be printed in the U.S. in March, warns that the American press's "kid gloves" approach towards Tel Aviv "has resulted in a distorted media image of Israel... and a skewed view of the Arab-Israeli conflict." Negative reports about Israel are often buried or overlooked by the U.S. mainstream media with the result that the country's efforts to act as an honest broker in the region have been totally undermined. This approach "has crippled the United States ability to make realistic foreign policy judgments and has undermined U.S. efforts to act as an honest broker in Mid-east affairs," the report adds.

Friedman, a freelance writer based in New York, will publish his report in the March issue of "Mother Jones" magazine, which is published in San Francisco, California, by the Foundation for National Progress.

In his lengthy study, the writer notes that many mainstream journalists in the United States, Christians as well as Jews, feel they should defend Israel. "And many others who have tried to defy this orthodoxy have come under unrelenting attack from the Israeli lobby — a coalition of editors and publishers, pro-Israel PACS (Public Action Committees) and wealthy businessmen — which tries to silence dissidents with accusations of anti-Israel bias or anti-semitism," he said. The report also shows evidence that when Israel and its supporters do not get the coverage they want in the American press

through friendly means, they resort to pressure.

According to Menachem Shalev, a former press officer for the Israeli consulate in New York City: "Good guys can be found at every network and nearly every important newspaper in the country. Their names are passed from one press attaché to another." He added, "It is crucial that Israel gets favourable press in the United States. The stakes for Israel — billions in aid and continued U.S. support — are very high. Shalev noted that press relations are a "top priority" of the Israeli government.

In his conversation with Friedman, who took place at a New York bar last May, Shalev also said: "I had breakfast, lunch and

dinner with journalists... many became friends. I turned my position of trust into a position of influence." An Israeli official, who would not let his name be used, told Friedman that there are a number of American Jews in the American television industry "from network executives to bookers", who are "more loyal" to Israel than to their employer. This translates into "favours" ranging from sympathetic coverage of Israel to getting negative stories about the country ignored. The same source said he knows of at least three instances in which Israel was able to get "negative" news segments left out of broadcasts. Friedman says that "the official wouldn't say whether Israel was able to do this by convincing executives that the

stories were wrong, by applying some kind of pressure, or whether dual loyalty came into play."

Statements about the support American journalists feel towards Israel also came from several well known people in the media. Washington Post editor Benjamin Bradlee said during an interview with Friedman last October that if polled privately, the reporters in his newsroom "would say that they were pro-Israel. Not pro-Syria, not pro-Palestinian. I think that's probably a fact of life."

On the other hand, other stories and statements cited pressure imposed on the American media. "If there is anything in the papers that smacks of criticism of Israel,

my editor's phone starts ringing," said David Lamb, who covered Egyptian affairs for the Los Angeles Times. He went on to add that editors were much more careful when dealing with Israeli stories than they were with those pertaining to the Arab World "because they know they will come under a lot more pressure."

The report said that the most active organisations involved in pressuring the media are the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress and the anti-defamation league of B'nai B'rith. To illustrate the might of these and other such organisations Friedman notes that the American Jewish Committee leapt into action, last March when it tried to suppress Flashpoint, a three part

documentary by the Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) on the Middle East that included a segment portraying Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Thirty six stations dropped the broadcast, including those in Washington D.C. and New York City.

Friedman says that the U.S. media's "love affair" with Israel did sour temporarily as a result of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Following the Israeli action the American Jewish Congress helped establish the "Hasbara", or propaganda project, an internship programme that places Israeli officials in "advertising agencies in New York to learn how the experts handle public relations. Before the Israeli participants returned to Israel, they were invited to meet top editors and executives at the New York Times, the Washington Post, and all three network evening news shows.

At ABC television network, the Israeli participants were allowed to sit in on a morning editorial meeting, where bureau chiefs from around the world link up on a conference call to hash out what will be broadcast. "After the hullabaloo over Lebanon, the press doesn't do anything without calling us for comment," the unidentified Israeli official told Friedman. However, as Friedman points out, stories that are omitted from the American press because of the pressures brought to bear on journalists, are regularly covered by the Israeli press. Clearly the Israelis have a very successful public relations system in the U.S. but, as Friedman warns those who silence the media and stifle debate are a threat to Israel, to the Arab Nation and to the prospects for peace in the region.



Afghan government seeks reconciliation in historic town

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

BALKH, Afghanistan — Alexander the Great conquered it and Genghis Khan razed it to the ground, but now the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan is trying to bring national reconciliation to Balkh, one of the legendary cities of central Asia. The policy, being applied all over the country by the Soviet-backed government in a bid to end the seven-year war with Muslim guerrillas, probably has a good chance as anywhere of succeeding in this district of northern Afghanistan.

Local officials say there has been no fighting in the area — a bare, dusty plain which looks ill-suited to guerrilla warfare — for about two years.

The local Mujahideen (guerrillas) seem not to have recovered from the loss of their renowned leader, Zabiullah Qadri, who was killed some two years ago.

Before then, in Mazar-i-Sharif, about 20 kilometres east of here, "it was difficult even to go from the mosque to the Mazar hotel," a distance of about one kilometre, one Afghan recalls.

Between Balkh and Mazar a school is being built where the Mujahideen are said to have destroyed the previous one.

Now, in both towns, things look quiet enough. There are none of the thumps and booms that can be heard around Kabul from hostilities that can seldom be precisely located.

The only warlike sound is the roar of MiG-21 jet fighters constantly taking off and landing at Mazar airport. Just trainers, officials say.

Being market day, Balkh is bustling. Turbanned traders sit cross-legged on the ground in a bazaar stretching round the perimeter of a circular park, selling spices and fruits and household utensils.

Two humped Bactrian camels stalk along the road, laden with bundles of brushwood. Bactria was the ancient Greek name for the town.

"There may be up to 50 people from the opposition groups in the bazaar," says comrade Naqib, the local party secretary. "They are free to walk around, see their friends and relatives and buy food."

"Nobody's afraid to come because of military service," explains his deputy Abdul Shakir.

For the Mujahideen, clearly one of the most attractive features of national reconciliation launched by the government last month is the six-month moratorium on the forcible conscription of draft dodgers.

National reconciliation is in full swing in the neighbourhood. Commissions of local personali-

ties to seek dialogue with the Mujahideen have been set up in more than half the villages of the district.

Over tea in his office, Naqib waves an invitation he has received to the founding ceremony of yet another commission. Passages from the Holy Koran will be read and food distributed.

But national reconciliation can also be a risky business. At least two heads of commissions are already reported to have been assassinated in Afghanistan, one of them in Kunduz province, east of Balkh, where the situation is said to be much more volatile than here.

Balkh lies in a prosperous province bearing the same name. The Caliph Ali, son-in-law of the Prophet Mohammed, is believed by Afghans to be buried in Mazar. Thousands of pilgrims flock to his imposing shrine, especially in spring when a flag is ceremonially hoisted there to mark the start of the Afghan year.

The province is fertile. The forbidding-looking soil responds well to irrigation and the area is self-sufficient in most agricultural products.

It was this fertility that first attracted settlers from the north some four millennia ago.

The law-giver Zoroaster settled here more than 2,500 years ago to found his religion. Apart from Zoroastrianism — still practised in parts of Iran and India — Buddhism, Islam and even Christianity flourished in Balkh at various times.

All the great conquerors of Central Asia, from Cyrus of Persia to Tamerlane, passed this way.

The city grew rich, positioned at the junction of the trade routes between Rome, China and India. The Arabs called it Umm al Bilad, the mother of cities.

Little of this former splendour remains. Just some ruined ramparts, a fine blue-tiled shrine to a 16th-century Muslim theologian and the reputed tomb of Rabia Balkhi, a poetess slain by her family for falling in love with a slave.

Only a few thousand people live here, now that the provincial capital has been moved to Mazar. Soviet-style slogans proclaim the unity of the party and the people, and modern education is making gradual inroads, but people go on tilling the soil and selling carpets much as they have done for centuries.

There are no Soviets to be seen, despite the proximity of the Soviet Union, only 60 kilometres to the north, across the Amu Darya (Oxus) River.

Like Afghanistan as a whole, the area seems poised between Socialism and a traditional free enterprise, with no-one quite certain which way it will go in the future.

Arens wants Arab 'integration' in Israel; Arabs: You cannot integrate horse with rider

By Elaine Ruth Fletcher
The Jerusalem Post

ISRAEL'S Jews and Arabs must strive for "integration" rather than mere "co-existence," says Minister without portfolio Moshe Arens.

"Democratic values, such as tolerance and non-violence, must be the social glue that binds the two peoples together," the minister in charge of minority affairs told a forum on Jewish-Arab relations at Beit Berl on Sunday night.

But the audience, dominated by Arab local council members, attacked Arens for politically carving up the Arab minority into still smaller groups — Druse, Beduin, Circassians, Christians and Muslims.

"When you break up Arabs into categories... this is creating schisms — not integration," said Assad Azaze, local council chairman of Dabburiya.

"The Arabs build Israel, the Druse guard Israel and the Jewish people live — that's the real fact of life," said Ahmad Abn Asbah, head of the Jat local council.

Asbah protested that Arab labourers, are literally building Israel today without receiving the same local budget allocations, tax and national insurance benefits as the Jewish sector.

"What is the meaning of integration? That the Arab population will feel they are at home, at ease, equals among equals, identifying with the state and partners in the state."

Coexistence, on the other hand, merely implied the uneasy existence achieved between antagonists who have opposing aspirations, he said.

"There doesn't have to be an opposition of aspirations of interests, between Arabs and Jews," Arens asserted.

"... Still, it is possible to arrive at an integration of the Arab

citizenship in Israel, when, after all, Israel is not America?"

"In the state of Israel, there is something uniquely Jewish. Will Arab Israelis be able to identify with this unique quality, which is a Jewish quality? It seems to me that this is not impossible."

But in order for this to happen, said Arens, Arabs must come to grips with the unique elements of Jewish experience — and particularly with how the Holocaust propelled the state into existence.

Arens' Arab audience countered that Jews must come to grips with the Arab dilemma.

"You talked about the Holocaust. What is happening in the refugee camps in Lebanon is not a Holocaust?"

"Let's call a spade a spade," retorted Arens. "Do we think a Holocaust is the same thing as when each side is killing each other every day. It's not the same. It's far from being the same."

Arab participants also complained that the Arab sector still had not been allowed to play a large role in determining its own fate on day-to-day issues.

"Everyone wants integration and coexistence. But it should not be that of a horse and his rider. The question is whether we can be partners in our fate," said Samir Darwish, local council head of Baka Al Gharbiya.

Israel's democracy won't fully embrace the Arab minority while the West Bank occupation persists, added Abu Asbah the Jat local council head.

Azaze complained about Arens' new proposal for providing Druse with access to various government tax breaks, housing subsidies and job opportunities now open only to the Jewish sector.

"If you want to create integration, do it for all Arab citizens — this only puts us further away from our goal," he said.

No compromise in sight in South Korean politics

By Edwin Q. White
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Lee Min-Woo, the 71-year-old president of South Korea's major opposition party, sat in a restaurant in downtown Seoul, waiting, as aides tore off strips of plastic kitchen wrap and handed them out.

The strips were to serve as makeshift gas masks, protection for eyes and noses. They were needed when Lee's entourage left the restaurant to walk toward a memorial rally for a student tortured to death by police last month.

The government had declared the rally illegal and riot police broke in quickly, firing tear gas to break up the march of the elderly politician and his followers.

The confrontation — repeated dozens of times Saturday — illustrates the bitter divisions in South Korean politics and indicates time may be running out for an orderly transfer of power when President Chun Doo-Hwan steps down in 1988.

Throughout its relatively short modern political history, South Korea has seen attempts to develop democracy mired down in factional fighting that led to authoritarian rule, often with military backing.

Lee's New Korea Democratic Party was formed before the national assembly elections in February 1985, and ran a strong second to the governing Democratic Justice Party, presenting Chun with his first challenge since he took power in 1980.

Since then, the government and the opposition have been locked in a bitter and often-violent confrontation that has not permitted compromise.

The New Korea Democratic Party questions the legitimacy of

the government, saying it does not have popular backing and is in power only because of military support.

The government counters that most South Koreans favour its programmes and policies — often citing South Korea's "economic miracle" — and maintains that it is moving cautiously toward more democracy.

It also charges that members of the opposition have come under radical influence that verges on a Communist or pro-Communist line and could only serve to benefit North Korea and its ideological allies.

As positions keep hardening, both sides concede that time is running out for what could be South Korea's first orderly transfer of power. Chun has said he would step down when his term expires in February 1988.

The government has in principle agreed to an opposition demand for constitutional reform, but the two sides remain far apart on issues.

The opposition is pushing for a direct, popular presidential vote to replace the present electoral college system. The government wants a system with a strong prime minister and a largely symbolic presidency.

The opposition had denounced both the present system and the government proposal, saying both systems favour those already in power.

Attempts in the national assembly to resolve differences have broken down before they could get started.

A constitutional change requires two-thirds approval in the assembly and in a national referendum.

How all that could be accomplished with any degree of equanimity in the time left is difficult to imagine.

Castro insists on Cuban road to reform

By Lionel Martin
Reuters

HAVANA — Cuban President Fidel Castro is bucking a world trend.

Rejecting the compromises with capitalism adopted by other Socialist governments, Castro is seeking economic reform based on the revolutionary spirit that made it all possible in the first place.

While many Eastern-bloc nations are liberalising their economies, Castro is turning his back on the laws of the market and calling for a revival rather than monetary values.

"All the great things of the revolution were done with revolutionary spirit and they never were nor could have been done for money," Castro recently told university students.

His hard-hitting crusade comes as Cuba faces a drop in hard-currency earnings and a freeze on increased help from the Soviet Union, Cuban officials say.

They say the economy is being hurt by the same trends that have weakened other Third World economies, mainly lower prices for commodities such as sugar, Cuba's key export.

The island, although not an oil producer, has also been hurt by falling oil prices. For the past few years, the lion's share of Cuba's hard currency came from the resale of oil it receives from the Soviet Union.

In dozens of hours of impassioned speeches, Castro in the past year has outlined his crusade to get back to the basics of the Cuban revolution, political awareness — known here as *conciencia* — and ideological work.

In one recently published speech, he said: "We ought to feel ashamed of the absence of discipline, for the way in which

we have used our resources, and the moment has come to put an end to this situation."

Castro recently charged that reliance on purely economic mechanisms instead of ideological ones "distances us completely from revolutionary methods and a revolutionary style and spirit," and allowed shortcomings to flourish.

Cuba has had "a tendency to mechanically copy the experiences of other countries without stopping to think if they are really applicable to the concrete conditions of our country," he recently told Havana province party officials.

A case in point was the farmers' markets. In the Soviet Union and China, farmers have been encouraged to bring their surplus produce to the cities and sell it directly to consumers.

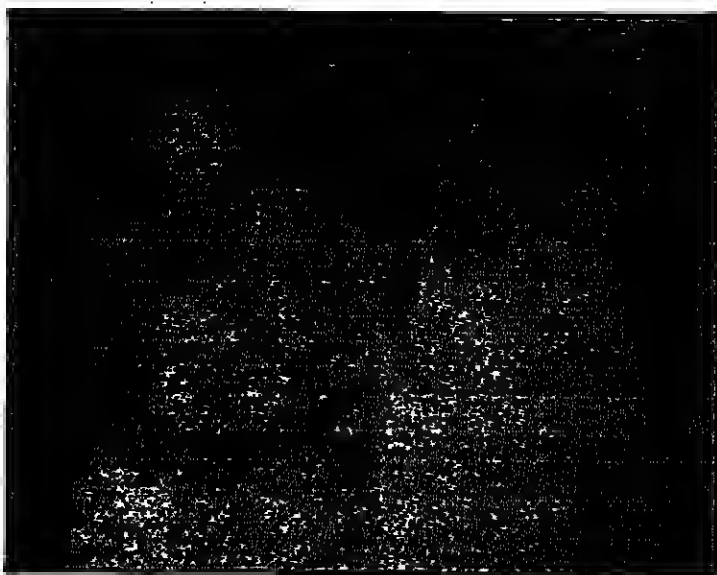
In Cuba, similar markets were taken over by the government because, Castro said, the farmers and illegal middlemen were enriching themselves.

Similarly, recent policy changes allowing incentive pay and profit-making in government enterprises to increase efficiency led instead to chaos and even corruption, Castro said.

In order to post profits, managers raised prices when they should have been cutting costs and producing better goods. As Castro said in a December speech, managers "began to act like capitalists, but without the efficiency of capitalists."

Castro told the third party congress in December that Cuba does not reject either the notion of profitability of government enterprises nor "the Socialist formula of payment according to the quantity and quality of work."

But he said wages and incentive pay were rising faster than productivity.



Adnan Khashoggi leaving a charity ball in Paris with his wife. Now, with his fortunes falling, an associate says: "Everything is mortgaged — except his wife."

Declining fortunes for Saudi billionaire

By William Scobie

LOS ANGELES — When Adnan Khashoggi, known these days in California as the Vanishing Unbillionaire, filed for protection from his creditors last month under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code, the move came as no great surprise to West Coast business moguls.

For the past several months they have followed with awed fascination the crumbling fortunes of the one-time "richest man in the world." Khashoggi, the Saudi arms dealer and property tycoon, who served as middleman in the sale of U.S. arms to Iran, has been in dire financial straits since early in 1986 — although at that time aides would admit only to "a bit of cash-flow problem."

Now Triad America Corp., the heart of Khashoggi's U.S. operations, in its filing with the U.S. bankruptcy court in Los Angeles, has listed assets of \$116.5 million and liabilities of \$50.1m. Many affiliated companies have also made Chapter 11 filings, listing separate liabilities.

"Everything is mortgaged — except his wife," according to one former U.S. business associate. But hope springs eternal in Khashoggi's breast. In a recent interview with ABC TV here he claimed that his fortunes would be restored "if peace comes between Iran and Iraq." The Iranians, he said, "still owe me \$10m."

The picture painted of Adnan Khashoggi by business associates here is of a man desperately striving to maintain his image of wealth and international power, while writing bad checks on all sides and even failing to pay the maids at his New York penthouse and the deckhands on his 100 metre yacht Nabila. Since it appears unlikely that Khashoggi can meet a March deadline for a \$50m. balloon payment on the yacht loan, the vessel will become the property of the lender — the Sultan of Brunei.

At one point last year, the Nabila's crew told the press that they planned to visit Riviera harbours waving placards denouncing Khashoggi's failure to pay

their salaries. The Great Unbillionaire has been sued over an unpaid fuel bill of \$180,000 for his personal DC8 jet, and his Boeing 727 was also grounded because of unpaid bills. Many top hotels in the U.S. and Europe will no longer accept the Khashoggi entourage unless cash is paid in advance.

"I'm afraid last year was a total disaster for Adnan," says one former Khashoggi executive. In all, Triad America, his Salt Lake City-based holding company, is being sued for more than \$150m. The largest unsecured creditors are the Travelers Co., which is owed \$61.5m, and Aetna Insurance, owed \$27.4m.

How did "AK," as he likes to be known, get into this mess? The slide began suddenly in the mid-1970s, when Khashoggi's arms commissions were suddenly subjected to a tough investigation by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. He dodged subpoenas for two years by staying out of the U.S., but his arms peddling business was seriously harmed as both the U.S. and Saudi authorities passed laws limiting the middleman's role in juicy defence contracts.

The tens of millions earned from such U.S. firms as Lockheed and Raytheon were later squandered in deals that went sour at points from the Sudan to Houston, Texas, where Khashoggi bought 21 acres of land on which to build a billion-dollar real estate complex. The project never got off the ground and the tract has been sold. Banks have foreclosed on Triad's other Houston properties.

Khashoggi's project for a huge Triad Centre in Salt Lake City, which began in the 1970s, remains only one-third complete. Mormoo city fathers and other lenders who financed the ambitious development are suing for \$61m. Nevertheless, Khashoggi claims to be busy planning new deals. One, announced in Denver last December 21, is for the development of gold mines in Mali which, he told a television interviewer, he believes to be the true site of King Solomon's Mines — London Observer.

'Amerika' angers right, left, U.N., Moscow and advertisers

By Steve James
Reuter

NEW YORK — "Amerika," a television movie about life in the United States under Soviet occupation, has upset the Kremlin, the United Nations, women's groups and both the U.S. political right and left — and it has yet to be broadcast.

Last week the show's largest single sponsor, the Chrysler Corporation, withdrew its planned advertising — an estimated \$5 million worth — and other advertisers appear reluctant to be associated with the show.

The 14-1/2-hour, seven-part "mini-series" is the longest ever produced for television.

TASS, the official Soviet news agency, called it "deliberate psychological warfare" and the United Nations is incensed by what it says is an unfair portrayal of U.N. peacekeeping forces. Feminist groups do not like its portrayal of women as weak and treacherous.

The ABC network, which has invested \$35 million in the project, declared it would go ahead with the series despite the pullout of Chrysler.

It said the series, starring Kris Kristofferson, Mariel Hemingway, Robert Urich and Christine Lahti, would run on schedule starting on February 15 "because we believe in the programme and will air it irrespective of economic pressure."

The series could top the controversy of "Roots," "Holocaust" and "The Day After," which forced millions of viewers

to come to terms with such issues as black slavery, the Nazis and nuclear war.

"The Day After," a film about a nuclear attack on the United States, was aired three years ago, sparking some criticism that it was pro-Soviet. There has been speculation that "Amerika" was ABC way of redressing the balance.

Brandon Stoddard, ABC's president for entertainment, acknowledged the idea for "Amerika" grew from "The Day After."

"In many ways it is very much like 'The Day After,'" Stoddard said. "That was about a bunch of people and how they lived after a nuclear holocaust. This is about a bunch of people and how they live 10 years after a Russian takeover."

He denies any political leaning. "It's about how Americans behave, what happens to their families, their jobs, their futures and what they are going to do about it."

However, conservative groups have lambasted it for showing a less than beautiful America. The Soviet Union, they say, is shown in too good a light and Americans appear too weak.

Liberals, on the other hand, don't like it because they argue it helps to fan the kind of anti-Soviet feelings common to the cold war years and revived recently in such movies as "Rambo," "Rocky" and "Red Dawn," which also dealt with a United States under Soviet rule.

Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca withdrew his company's backing after deciding that scenes of

American passivity in the face of aggression by Soviet and International forces was inconsistent with his firm's upbeat patriotic advertising.

According to the ABC synopsis, America 10 years after Soviet occupation is ruled by a puppet regime in the White House manipulated by the KGB. In the once-prosperous U.S. heartland, people stand in line for food.

The country is patrolled by forces of the United Nations special service unit — known as the SS — who set fire to houses, run over innocent people with tanks and rape women.

Disidents are held in prison camps, propaganda is taught in schools and Lenin is hailed alongside Abraham Lincoln as a great leader. Kristofferson plays a rebel who manages to raise a ragtag resistance movement.

"If I didn't know anything about this movie, my guess is I would probably have a knee-jerk reaction against the premise," said Donald Wrye, writer, director and producer of "Amerika."

"If this script has a political theme, it says that democracy depends on an individual's capacity to exercise the responsibility of democracy."

Ironically, both right and left-wing watchdogs of U.S. television — the liberal fairness and accuracy in reporting (FAIR) and the conservative accuracy in media (AIM) — are united in their outrage.

"The mini-series gives credibility to two cardinal obsessions of the radical right — the idea that

the Soviets are capable of conquering the U.S. and the idea that the United Nations is a Soviet puppet," said FAIR's Jeff Cohen.

AIM's Reed Irvine objects because "they took what was a very well-conceived project and turned it into a show about a very benign occupation, with some very nice KGB officers."

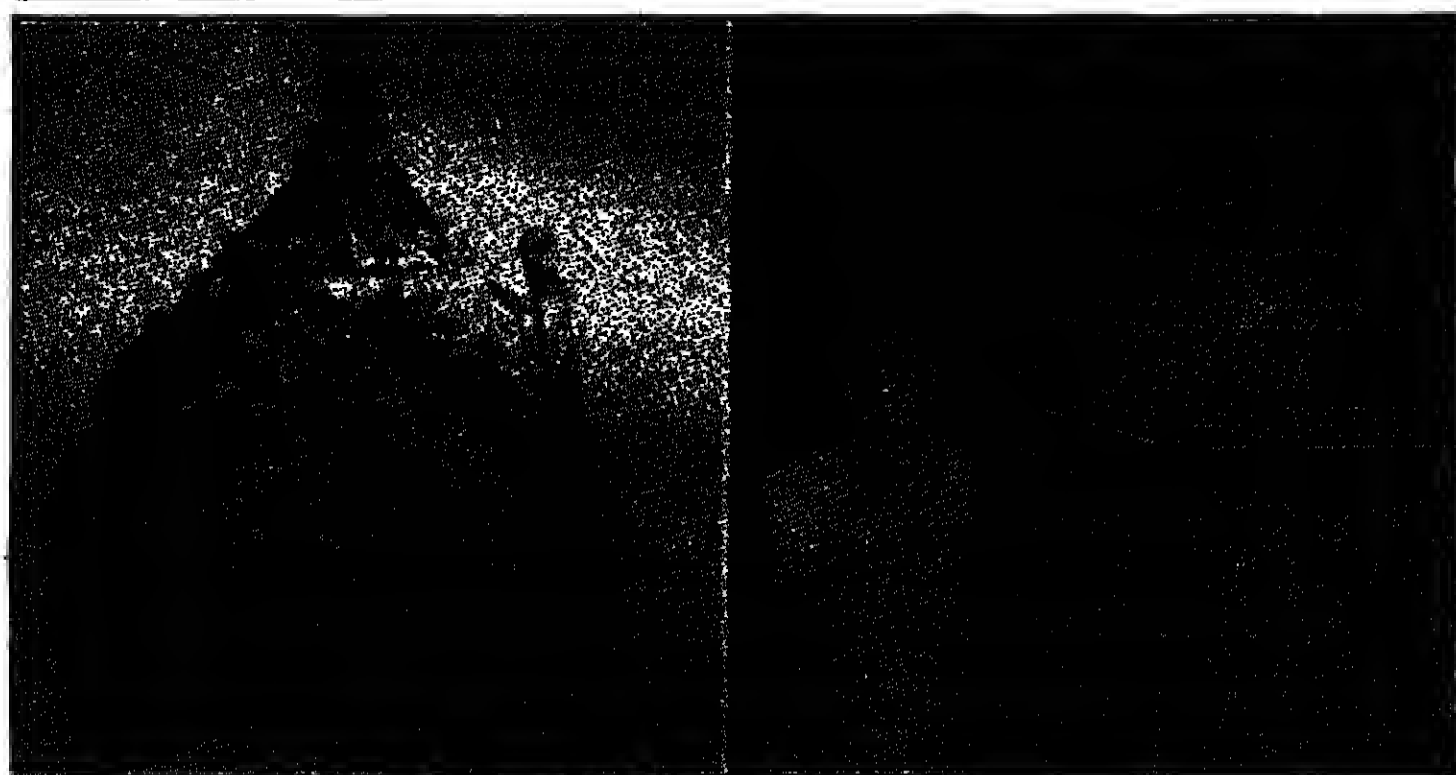
Several peace groups, although not asking ABC to take the show off the air, have persuaded local stations to devote air time for discussion of the issues. So far, ABC has not agreed.

"We wish people would wait until they've seen the programme before they criticise it," said ABC spokesman Thomas Mackin.

This week, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda attacked the show but carried an interview with Bob Wright, vice president of ABC's public liaison office.

"Amerika" is a film about Americans and for Americans," he said in the interview. "Its main idea is to try to examine ... what the daily life of the inhabitants of our country would be like if they fell under the yoke of a totalitarian system and were deprived of the democratic privileges which today's society gives them."

In reply, Pravda blasted "Amerika" as a provocation and said such films could only sow strife. Referring to Wright's comment on totalitarianism, it added: "Such an idea of our country can generate only enmity towards the Soviet people."



Dr. Esin Atil amid exhibits on the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent in Washington

Turkish treasures tour United States

By Bruce Russell
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Turkey has sent the United States a display of cultural treasures not seen outside fabled Topkapı Palace in 20 years.

Jewelled armour, books, clothes and rugs dating from the 16th-century reign of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent, are on display at Washington's National Gallery of Art from January 25.

The exhibition follows crowd-pulling shows there last year of art from Britain's country houses, the Soviet Union's top museums and the French impressionist collections of Europe.

The Turkish show will also appear in Chicago in June and New York in October, coordinated with tours by Turkish folk dancers and musicians and exhibits of Turkish architecture, carpets, contemporary arts and fashions.

"Among all of America's principal allies, Turkey is surely the least known," Sukru Elekdog, Turkey's ambassador in Washington, said in announcing the exhibition recently.

"These events provide an unprecedented opportunity to expose Americans to the artistic and cultural achievements of the Ottoman empire, and also to the rich diversity of the modern Turkish republic, heir to the cultural magnificence of the Ottoman past."

The 210 items on display include Suleyman's golden portable throne, gem-encrusted helmets, swords and jugs, richly decorated books and scrolls, oriental rugs, and the colourful ksfans or robes the sultan wore.

Dr. Esin Atil, an Islamic art specialist who has been preparing for this exhibit for two years, says the show will offer a good sample of the opulence of Suleyman's sprawling domain.

"The Ottoman empire in Suleyman's time stretched from the western part of modern Iran, northward to Austria and westward to the borders of Morocco," Atil told Reuters.

"The art produced during the Ottoman period clearly reflects the extent and the wealth of the

empire."

Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery, described the reign of Suleyman at a news conference as "a golden age in world history."

The Ottoman empire lasted from the 14th to the 20th centuries, finally collapsing shortly after World I.

The reign of Suleyman from 1520 to 1566 is regarded as the zenith of its political and economic expansion, Atil said.

His art board was kept in the Topkapı, the vast Istanbul administrative palace built around four courtyards on a peninsula overlooking the Bosphorus where Europe meets Asia.

The first of the courtyards houses the empire's civil service, the second sheltered the palace staff, the third contained the

sultan's court and art works and the fourth was where his harem was quartered. It is now a museum.

The Turks placed a ban on art works travelling 20 years ago after art objects loaned to a cultural exhibit in Istanbul were burned in a fire which authorities said was set by anarchists.

"The Turkish authorities then felt that objects were best preserved in their own institutions and should not go from one building to another," said Atil, Turkish-born but now an American citizen.

She was among those who worked to persuade the Turkish authorities to lift the ban.

In Washington, the exhibit will be displayed in four consecutive galleries — like the four courtyards of Topkapı — specially

constructed within the walls of the modernistic National Gallery east wing on the capital's central Mall.

The first gallery will deal with Suleyman's administration, the second with Ottoman weapons, armour and illustrated histories of the sultan's victories, the third with arts and poetry, and the fourth with the splendours of the court.

"This last gallery shows why the Ottoman empire had such a great reputation in Europe as the wealthiest and most splendid court in the world," Atil says.

In a recreation of a ceremonial event in the courtroom, the ksfans of the sultan's courtiers will be arrayed in an upright position around a precious metal inlaid portable throne that Suleyman took on his campaigns and hunting exhibitions.

Randa Habib's Corner

Setting the style

TWO Iraqi women have demonstrated last week in Amman a lot of courage, vivid imagination, and a great deal of energy. Works of art made of Iraqi-made fabrics, designed by a professionally trained designer, Souha Bakri, and a famous artist Naha Radi, and executed by artisans in various parts of Iraq, were on display last week. The group belong to Iraq's Dar Tasneem (fashion house).

The most interesting aspect of this project, born in a country at war, is the fact that it involves Iraqi village women in the work and employs national Iraqi fabrics and colours.

This is exactly what we need in Jordan. In fact, we have the capability of producing national dresses because people have been doing them for ages. Some Jordanian designers have even improved the classical bedouin and village dresses by applying modern trends and techniques, and Jordanian and foreign ladies have found that wearing traditional dresses is both enjoyable and elegant. We have weavers in Jordan, we have some promising and interesting designers and we also have a great number of women who embroider with great efficiency.

Someone or some association should take the initiative of harmonising all this in order to make it useful and beneficial for the people and the country. Other items from handkerchiefs to hand-made shoes, or embroidered towels and bed-sheets should be made locally.

Let us enter the world of fashion. Let us produce local fashions that we could be proud of. That would carry the name of Jordan, the touch of Jordan and the colours of Jordan to the world.

Controversial strip cartoon on nuclear war made into film

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

LONDON — A strip-cartoon book telling the story of how a bewildered elderly couple try to cope with the aftermath of a nuclear attack scored an unexpected critical and commercial success five years ago — now it has been made into a full-length animated film.

"When the Wind Blows," based on the book by British illustrator Raymond Briggs, opened in London recently, with the voices of the characters provided by two doyens of the English stage, Dame Peggy Ashcroft and Sir John Mills.

Briggs, 53, who has reputation as an illustrator of children's stories. One of his best-known, "The Snowman," has been made into a highly successful cartoon film.

He says the naive British couple in "When the Wind Blows," who try uncomprehendingly to cope with the fallout from a nuclear war before dying a miserable and lonely death, were modelled on his parents.

"Jim and Hilda Briggs are respectable working class. Hilda's got pretensions like my mum," Briggs said in a recent interview.

Briggs extracts considerable humour from the couple's vain attempt to relate the approaching holocaust to their pleasant memories of how Britons pulled together to overcome the rigours of World War II.

When Jim, bearing on the radio that war is imminent, says "blimey", Hilda is quick to chide him for bad language. When the three minute warning is sounded, she says: "I'll just get the washing in."

Faithfully following the instructions of government civil defence leaflets, Jim constructs an "inner core or refuge" out of doors propped against the wall and cushions.

The bomb falls. They wait for someone to scold help or tell them what to do. Outside is silence, a blasted landscape. They get headaches, then they are sick and have diarrhoea. Their gums bleed. Finally, they die mumbling prayers and lines from Tennyson's poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade."

The book sold 40,000 copies within two months of publication and immediately set off a political controversy, with some members of the ruling Conservative Party condemning it as defeatist and

unpatriotic. "It is a subtle and pernicious piece of anti-nuclear propaganda, well aimed to induce irrational fear and panic," said Conservative parliamentarian Stephen Hastings.

In 1984, publication of another strip cartoon book, attacking Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for launching the 1982 war against Argentina to regain the Falkland Islands, won him more opprobrium from the Conservatives.

"The tin pot foreign general and the old iron woman" depicted the British prime minister as a grotesque figure with a pair of giant breasts which doubled as exploding cannons.

"When the Wind Blows," reprinted every year since 1982, was adapted for radio in 1983. A stage version toured several countries after a successful run in a London theatre.

The film is directed by Jimmy Murakami, an American of Japanese parentage who lost a relative in the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. It took over two years of work by over 100 animators, drawing 190,000 frames at a cost of £2 million (£3 million).

Both Mills, 78, and Ashcroft, 79, have testified to the emotional power, generated by their two short dumpy characters.

"We were roaring with laughter at the beginning, and by the end we were shattered. It's amazing how those little cartoon characters got every expression and feeling," said Ashcroft.

"This film is going to have tremendous visual impact," said Mills.

Briggs originally said the book was not intended as an anti-nuclear tract, but has since joined the campaign for nuclear disarmament and become increasingly politically outspoken.

Members of the Families for Defence Group yelled "Jim and Hilda are safe with NATO" outside the London cinema where the film premiered this week.

Critics were generally favourable. The Guardian reviewer said: "The film achieves the extraordinary feat of allowing us much gentle amusement on the way to its icy conclusion, and it does this without seeming to patronise its characters unduly."

But a review in "The Independent" said that although the characters were sympathetic, the film's simplicity was irritating.

Islamic doctors seek religious guidance

By Bahgat Badie
Reuter

CAIRO — Muslim doctors and religious experts have agreed to set up a centre to give religious rulings on controversial medical problems ranging from the killer disease AIDS to alcohol in medicine.

The Cairo centre would liaise with similar bodies in other Muslim cities with a view to reaching a coordinated Islamic view on medical matters.

Judging by subjects raised at a conference of specialists from 23 Muslim countries last week, the proposed centre will have no shortage of topics on which to pronounce.

The meeting heard papers on issues as varied as womb-renting, milk banks, sperm banks, female circumcision and chicken feed.

The three-day gathering, sponsored by Cairo's 1,000-year-old Al Azhar University, one of the oldest seats of Islamic learning, also decided to issue an Islamic medical journal.

One conference paper said Muslim countries were less exposed to the AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) virus, which breaks down the body's immunity to disease, than other nations.

Islam bans sexual perversions of any kind, Mohammed Ali Al Bar of Saudi Arabia noted in a study on venereal diseases and AIDS, which is mainly transmitted by sexual contact.

He likened the spread of AIDS to an episode mentioned in both

the Koran and the Bible when the nation of Lut was destroyed as a result of homosexuality.

A paper by India's Sikandar Hussain, drew parallels between AIDS and the punishment of the people of Sodom, also mentioned in both holy books.

The researchers concluded that Muslim countries were less affected than others by homosexuality and, although several AIDS cases had been discovered, the disease's presence could not be compared with its spread in the developed world.

Another research paper urged Muslims not to eat poultry fed on fodder made of offal and dried fish. It said it was unhygienic and was contrary to Islamic teachings against the eating of dead animals or birds.

Author Mohammed Motaweh, former dean of Al Azhar's faculty of medicine, said he discovered that poultry fed on offal or dried fish contained high quantities of uric acid, responsible for some kidney ailments.

Some scholars criticised practices such as artificial insemination, womb-renting, abortion and mercy killing. One said the world was moving towards introduction of medicines free of alcohol, in line with Islam's ban on alcoholic drinks.

The countries from which participants came included Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Uganda, Pakistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Algeria, Sudan, Oman, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Madagascar and India.

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Edberg tested by unseeded student in U.S. indoor tennis

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Sweden's Stefan Edberg, the no. 2 ranked player in the world, held off a determined American student to take a 7-6, 2-6, 6-4 victory at the U.S. Indoor Tennis Championships.

"He played well. I was a little surprised," Edberg said after his match Tuesday night with Richey Reneberg.

Edberg, the tournament's no. 1 seed, won the first set on a 7-5 tiebreaker before allowing Reneberg, an amateur ranked 340th internationally, to take the second set.

"I lost my concentration in the second set for a while," Edberg said.

In an earlier match, ULF Stenlund of Sweden collected seven straight points in a tiebreaker in an upset of no. 5 seed Anders Jarryd, also of Sweden.

Stenlund, unseeded for the tournament, ended the match 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 after Jarryd took a 5-0 advantage in the first-set tiebreaker.

"I played very well and he missed some easy shots," Sten-

lund said after the match.

The victory sends Stenlund to a third-round contest with no. 10 seed Kevin Curren of the United States, who ended the second round with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Claudio Panatta of Italy.

No. 4 seed Brad Gilbert of the United States moved to the third round with a 6-1, 6-3, defeat of compatriot John Sadri.

Unseeded Greg Holmes of the United States staged a second-round upset with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 victory over fellow countryman, no. 12 seed Aaron Krickstein.

No. 14 seed Eric Jelen opened the second-round play with a quick 6-3, 6-1 victory over Jaime Yzaga of Peru.

The \$315,000 U.S. indoor began Monday at the Racquet Club of Memphis and runs through Sunday.

In continuing first-round play,

Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union defeated Christo Steyn of South Africa 6-3, 6-2 to gain a second-round match with no. 2 seed Jimmy Connors.

Daine Visser of South Africa held on in a hard-fought match to defeat Jimmy Arias of the United States, 7-6, 7-6, with tie-breakers of 7-4 and 9-7.

The victory puts Visser in second-round play against no. 9 seed Jonas Svensson of Sweden.

Sergio Casal of Spain defeated Mel Purcell of Atlanta 6-3, 2-6, 6-3, while Terry Moor of Memphis beat Kelly Jones of San Diego 6-2, 3-6, 7-5.

Tournament director Tom Buford said Connors, no. 3 seed Mikael Pernfors and no. 5 seed John McEnroe would play their first games Wednesday evening.

Edberg, two-time winner and defending champion of the Australian Open, won the U.S. indoor in 1985 and lost the finals last year to Gilbert.

Connors has won the U.S. indoor a record seven times and McEnroe won it in 1980, his last previous appearance at the championships.

NBA roundup

Dallas Mavericks defeat Portland

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Aguirre and Rolando Blackman, who played for the victorious West team in Sunday's NBA All-Star Game in Seattle, took their all-star show home to Dallas.

Aguirre scored 34 points to lead the Mavericks to a 135-115 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers Tuesday night. Blackman scored 28 points as the Mavericks increased their lead to three games over Utah, which lost to Phoenix 102-98.

Sam Perkins had 21 points for Dallas, while Steve Johnson with 27 and Kiki Vandeweghe with 23 led Portland.

Elsewhere, it was Houston 115, San Antonio 92; Boston 119, Denver 105; the Los Angeles Lakers 114, Sacramento 98; Atlanta 125, Seattle 113; Chicago 104, Philadelphia 99; Indiana 126, Golden State 125 in overtime; Cleveland 100, New York 95.

Suns 102, Jazz 98

Larry Nance scored 30 points, including a pair of free throws with 10 seconds remaining, to spark Phoenix. Nance also pulled down 21 rebounds and handed out five assists while Walter Davis added 21 points. Karl Malone led Utah with 26.

Rockets 115, Spurs 92

Akeem Olajuwon scored 25

points despite sitting out the fourth quarter as Houston snapped San Antonio's seven-game winning streak.

Olajuwon blocked six shots and grabbed seven rebounds while Rodney McCray scored 23 points and had eight assists and Jim Petersen had 19 points and 12 rebounds.

Celtics 119, Nuggets 105

Kevin McHale scored 36 points and grabbed 14 rebounds as the Celtics won in Denver for the first time in three years. Robert Parish had 22 points and Larry Bird 18 for the Celtics. Alex English topped Denver with 31.

Byron Scott scored 30 points and James Worthy added 23 as the Lakers posted their 23rd consecutive victory over the Kings, stretching back to Feb. 15, 1983.

Otis Thorpe had 27 points for Sacramento, which suffered its sixth straight loss.

Hawks 125, SuperSonics 113

Dominique Wilkins scored 46 points, including four free throws in a decisive 10-2 fourth-period burst, as Atlanta snapped a six-game road losing streak and Seattle's seven-game home winning

streak.

Tom Chambers, the most valuable player in Sunday's NBA All-Star Game when he scored 34 points, led Seattle with 35 and Dale Ellis added 28.

Bulls 104, 76ers 99

Michael Jordan scored 29 points after being held to six in the first half, but Chicago needed a layup and free throw by Gene Banks with less than two minutes remaining to hold off Philadelphia.

Philadelphia's Julius Erving had a game-high 30 points.

Pacers 126, Warriors 125

Rookie Chuck Person made a 3-point field goal with nine seconds remaining in overtime for the last of his 28 points.

John Long was a leading scorer with 36 points for the Pacers, including six in overtime. Eric Floyd and Joe Barry Carroll each had 35 for Golden State.

Cavaliers 100, Knicks 95

Ron Harper led Cleveland with 25 points, although he scored only one second-half field goal. Gerald Wilkins had 25 for the Knicks, who scored the game's first seven points and led by 13 early in the second quarter.

England downs Australia to win World Series Cup

SYDNEY (R) — England completed a clean sweep of the international cricket competitions in Australia when it clinched the World Series Cup at the Sydney Cricket Ground Wednesday night.

An eight-run victory in the second match of the best-of-three final gave England a winning 2-0 lead. It also won the test series 2-1 to keep the Ashes and carried off the Four-Nation Perth Challenge, another limited-over competition, in December and January.

A deciding match in Melbourne on Friday looked a distinct possibility when England, batting first after Mike Gatting won the toss, was restricted to 187 for nine from its 50 overs. It was 102 for two and going at four runs an over before poor batting and some combative Australian out-crickets stopped its progress.

Australia also started well with Allan Border and Geoff Marsh putting on 55 for the first wicket. But in trying to lift its run rate against tight English bowling the innings fell apart and it finished on 179 for eight.

Ian Botham, whose 71 from 52 balls spurred England to victory in the first final match in Melbourne last Sunday, took three for 26 from 10 overs Wednesday night and was named player of the finals.

Chris Broad, named international cricketer of the year earlier in the week, scored a diligent 53 to give the England innings a solid foundation.

He shared an opening stand of 36 with Botham, whose contribution was a muscular 25, and put on 37 with Bill Athey, who made 16 before chopping off-spinner Greg Matthews on to his stumps.

Then in the space of five overs Australia removed David Llewellyn, caught off Peter Taylor for 17, Broad, splendidly picked up at mid-wicket by Simon O'Donnell off Matthews, and Gatting ran out for seven when Allan Lamb changed his mind about a second run.

Lamb made some amends with a hard hit 35 from 39 balls but it seemed spinners Matthews and Taylor, with two wickets apiece for 31 and 29 runs respectively, made the more telling contributions.

Botham, testing and tempting the batsmen with his customary mixture of very good and very ordinary bowling, turned the match decisively England's way by removing Border for 27 and then dislodging Marsh and Greg Ritchie.

Dev, Azharuddin rescue India

CALCUTTA (R) — Mohammed Azharuddin and Kapil Dev shared an unbroken sixth-wicket stand of 76 to avert a batting disaster for India on the opening day of the second cricket test against Pakistan Wednesday.

Put in to bat by Imran Khan, India lost its fifth wicket at 149 shortly before tea. But, by the close, India had recovered to reach 225 for five with Azharuddin 51 not out and captain Kapil Dev also unbeaten on 39.

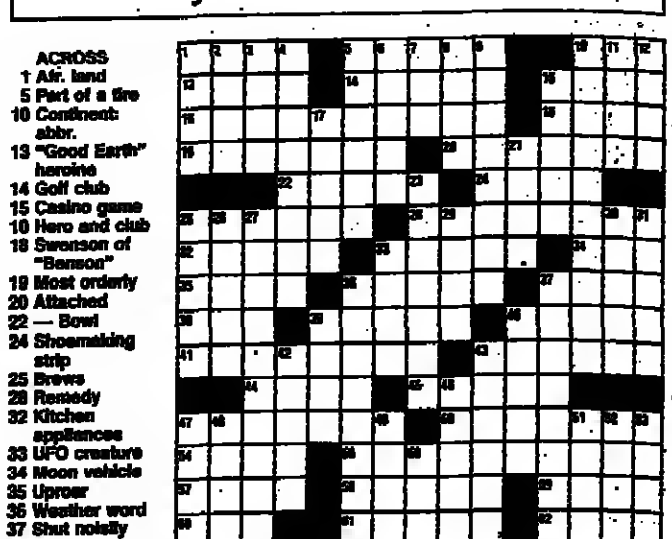
India, without veteran opener and former captain Sunil Gavaskar for the first time since 1975, lost wickets regularly throughout the day after an aggressive start by Krishnamachari Srikkanth.

Srikkanth hit Imran Khan for three successive fours in one over and scored 22 runs from 23 deliveries before he was caught at deep square leg by Salim Malik off left-arm paceman Wasim Akram with India on 30.

Mohinder Amarnath, added only nine before he was run out at 73 when Arun Lal, replacing Gavaskar, refused a quick single.

For a time Dilip Vengsarkar and Arun Lal threatened to build a commanding third wicket stand, but Lal went when he hooked a bouncer from Salim Jaffer to Tauzeeq Ahmed at square leg to leave India 104 for three. Lal had justified his inclusion with a controlled innings of 52, including seven fours, from 95 balls.

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

1 Across	2 Down	3 Across	4 Down	5 Across	6 Down	7 Across	8 Down	9 Across	10 Down	11 Across	12 Down	13 Across	14 Down	15 Across	16 Down	17 Across	18 Down	19 Across	20 Down	21 Across	22 Down	23 Across	24 Down	25 Across	26 Down	27 Across	28 Down	29 Across	30 Down	31 Across	32 Down	33 Across	34 Down	35 Across	36 Down	37 Across	38 Down
1 Across	2 Down	3 Across	4 Down	5 Across	6 Down	7 Across	8 Down	9 Across	10 Down	11 Across	12 Down	13 Across	14 Down	15 Across	16 Down	17 Across	18 Down	19 Across	20 Down	21 Across	22 Down	23 Across	24 Down	25 Across	26 Down	27 Across	28 Down	29 Across	30 Down	31 Across	32 Down	33 Across	34 Down	35 Across	36 Down	37 Across	38 Down

Tennis pros to play in Olympics

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — An experimental plan allowing the millionaire superstars of tennis to compete as temporary amateurs in the 1988 Olympic Games was endorsed by the International Olympic Committee's executive board Wednesday.

The board, opening a four-day session, took the action shortly after North Korean postponed a meeting with the panel and IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch to discuss the North's involvement in the '88 Games in Seoul.

That session was rescheduled for late Thursday.

No explanation was given for the postponement, according to Michele Verdier, the IOC spokeswoman. But it was thought

that the delegation wanted to discuss some points with officials in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

Tennis was the last sport to have its eligibility for 1988 resolved. And the plan approved by the board, if ratified by the full IOC at its session in May, would make the tennis tournament at the Seoul Games virtually a fifth Grand Slam event.

Under the plan, drawn up by the International Tennis Federation, players such as Ivan Lendl and Martina Navratilova would be eligible to chase Olympic gold.

But they would have to suspend most of their professional connections—including lucrative endorsement contracts and links to personal coaches and financial agents—for the period of the Games. Logos for the player's individual sponsors would be banned from uniforms, shoes and racquets.

The players would be subject to regular Olympic regulations, such as doping controls and living in the athletes' village, and would be urged to take part in international events such as the men's Davis Cup and the women's Federation Cup. Those tournaments, along with regional qualifying rounds, would decide the Olympic field.

Most importantly, the proposal

bars players from accepting, "either directly or indirectly, any form of financial reward for (their) participation in or results of the Olympic tournament." Exceptions would be payments established by the player's National Olympic Committee.

The plan, presented to the board by the IOC's eligibility commission, would be in effect for 1988 only. But it said that "future decisions regarding tennis, based upon the experience of the 1988 Olympic Games, will be made following such Games."

The executive board also said it would set up negotiations with FIFA, the international governing body of soccer, over eligibility for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

FIFA and the IOC last October adopted a soccer eligibility code for 1988 that allows some professionals in but keeps most of the top stars, such as Argentina's Diego Maradona, out.

The North Koreans, led by National Olympic Committee President Kim Yu Sun and Vice President Chin Chung Guk, met with Samaranch for two hours in what were described beforehand as informal meetings to set guidelines for the executive board presentation.

Verdier said the North Koreans asked for the meeting to give the executive board and Samaranch an explanation of the North's position.

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AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL (FORMERLY THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL)



The school is expanding its kindergarten and will be opening a third KG1 class in September 1987. Application forms are now available from the school. They should be returned to the Junior School Office by Wednesday 25 February.

Please note that, in accordance with Ministry of Education regulations, a child must have been born in 1983.

BRITISH LADIES VISIT FACTORIES

On Monday Feb. 9th The British Ladies of Amman most graciously visited two factories in Zarqa: Eagle Distilleries Co. and M.M. Haddad & Sons Co. The group toured both adjacent factories to observe first-hand how the various finished products are manufactured.

At M.M. Haddad & Sons, the ladies saw how potato chips are made from fresh potatoes and they also viewed the corn curls plant. The group then went on to observe how various make-up, perfumery and cotton items are produced.

At Eagle Distilleries, the British ladies toured the carbon dioxide (CO₂), dry ice and alcohol plants. They observed the production of arack and pure medical alcohol along with the bottling of various types of alcoholic beverages.

The ladies had many interesting questions to ask factory personnel about every aspect of production. The tour ended with light snacks for all before the group departed back to Amman.

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Cinema Tel: 675573

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DOWN AND OUT IN BEVERLY HILLS

Performances 3:30, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

FLÉCH

Performances 1:30, 4:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 622198

RAGHADAN

THE SUPER NINJA

Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 8:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.5240/50	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3365/70	Canadian dollar
	1.8155/65	West German marks
	2.0480/90	Dutch guilders
	1.5352/62	Swiss francs
	37.50/55	Belgian francs
	6.0425/75	French francs
	1291/1292	Italian lire
	153.20/30	Japanese yen
	6.4875/4925	Swedish crowns
	6.9900/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.8500/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	402.60/403.10	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares advanced afresh on revived buying after Tuesday's shakeout but closings were off best levels. At 1530 GMT, the FTSE 100 share was up 19.6 to 1,894.5 having touched a high of 1,904.1.

Dealers said that the renewed strength of the market reflected investor confidence that first time dealings in British Airways would get off to a strong start. In the event, British Airways made its debut at around 11p compared with the paid part value of 65p and closed at 11p. It was the most actively traded issue on a turnover of almost 197 million shares.

Dealers said the market moved ahead in earlier trading on a perception that Tuesday's declines were overdone. Better than expected results from Amstrad, a sharp rise in British Aerospace and renewed demand for the international took prices further ahead towards midsession.

However, the higher levels failed to attract much follow through and the wider market began to tail back, gaining little support from the weak early showing on Wall Street.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Only by using your charm to the greatest possible advantage will you overcome today's tendency to get involved in the negative factors of your activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Some talent you possess requires a new inspiration before you can use it to your advantage.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) It would be wise to absent yourself from home today. Have guests in tonight and show you are an excellent host.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Go over any writings and be careful of what you say. Much care in driving is advised.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Do nothing that can ruin your bank account. Budget your assets wisely.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Try to get a point across to another, but don't be surprised if you meet with a lot of resistance.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be tactful if you want to get out of some responsibility that irks you. Set up a new plan of action.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A thoughtless person could give you trouble during the daytime if you permit, but later you can be happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Take care you do not lose prestige in public, or at work, by some foolish actions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you try to keep a promise you will be confused. Your mate can be helpful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can make long-term plans with a close friend today. Be clever and cooperative for best results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Plan how best to get an associate to understand your views. Don't attempt public matters today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may not be content with your environment, but don't make any changes yet. A prominent person is supportive now.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... — he or she will be tested early, so give him training in ethics so that your progeny can handle whatever comes up intelligently. Upon reaching maturity life will be much easier and there will be more money to do with as he, or she, likes. Be sure to give praise when earned.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, FEB. 13, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today brings all sorts of opportunities with the full moon. Combine your most conservative and unconventional ideas into a plan that represents both schools of thought.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contact the most interesting friends you have and gain their suggestions for advancing your ideas.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get in touch with prominent people who can show you the most modern ways to handle your concerns.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Discuss your new ideas with partners and show your finest talents for excellent results now.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Some special thought for your mate can bring more appreciation for your talents.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Show more appreciation for the talents of those who seem to be a bit bizarre and unusual.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Try to expand in your worldly affairs. Your have inspired ideas and your co-workers go along with you now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get into activities that can bring you the greatest amount of happiness, whether in business or in pleasure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Discuss your ideas with family ties. Have guests in and treat them nicely. They can be helpful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be more enthusiastic in communicating with others and get better results and added benefits.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Use progressive methods to make your home more attractive and comfortable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You are full of energy and have excellent ideas that will spur you on to accomplish a great deal.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can quietly make a plan that can bring you greater success in the future. Do whatever will please your mate.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... — he or she will be one of those delightful young persons who will be very capable in any New Era outlet, so be sure to send this one to modern schools where advanced subjects will be taught. Your progeny will not be like most others, but don't try to change this.

Saudi French Bank reports lower profit

JEDDAH (R) — Saudi French Bank Wednesday reported a 14 per cent dip in 1986 net profits as a slowdown in the Saudi Arabian economy and the need to increase provisions for bad and doubtful loans cut into earnings.

Managing Director Yves Max told Reuters the bank had a net profit of 94.9 million riyals (\$25.3 million), compared with 110.4 million (\$29.4 million) in 1985.

The bank, officially Al Bank Al Saudi Al Fransi, is the first of the kingdom's 11 commercial banks to publish 1986 earnings, which are generally expected to show a decline.

Mr. Max said Saudi French's smaller profit was caused by a drop in commercial activity in the Saudi economy and a rise to 138.0 million riyals (\$36.8 million), in the amount set aside for bad and doubtful loans, from 75.5 million (\$20.1 million) in 1985.

"All the banks (in Saudi Arabia) considerably increased their provisions last year and, as results appear this year, I think they will show the same," he said.

The slowdown in the Saudi economy came as world oil prices tumbled. This imposed a severe strain on the private sector and a number of companies were unable to repay bank loans.

Saudi French, owned 60 per cent by Saudi nationals and 40 per cent by Banque Indosuez, said assets at the end of 1986 rose to 14.88 billion riyals (\$3.97 billion) from 13.72 billion (\$3.66 billion) a year earlier.

Despite the decline in net profit, Mr. Max said: "I feel rather satisfied under the general circumstances."

He said there should be a gradual improvement in the economy if oil prices and Saudi Arabia's budget plans were stable over the next few years.

"Provisions may follow the same trend," he said. "I hope we have reached the worst and now maybe have reached a normal level. In such a case, the banks will be able to keep control over the situation and cover any had loans that may develop."

The central bank tightened regulations on all commercial banks operating in Lebanon. Bank capital must in future cover three per cent of liabilities, letters of credit and guarantees.

Bankers said they doubted if the measures would work. "We support most of the moves, but I don't think they tackle the root of the issue and that's political," one banker told Reuters.

Local newspapers have carried reports of families offering their children for sale because they could no longer afford to feed or educate them.

"We will have to get used to one meal a day, and without any meat," said one Christian east Beirut resident.

But there are signs a tiny elite still enjoys the good life. Restaurants are packed and the latest models of European and U.S. cars can still be seen on Beirut's streets.

The economic crisis has spawned innumerable tales of growing resentment of the "haves-nots" for "haves".

"A butcher told me he was serving a customer who buys scraps of meat every 14 days," said a resident. "A smartly-dressed woman came in and ordered meat for her dogs. The poor one grabbed the rich woman by the hair and began kicking her."

Authorities last month introduced a series of austerity measures to tackle the country's rising import bill and a widening state budget deficit fuelled by the pound's fall.

The pound has lost more than 82 per cent of its international value since January 1986, with dealers blaming continued uncertainty over Lebanon's 11-year civil war.

Public protests against spiralling food prices, armed robberies, theft of food from supermarkets and long queues outside bakeries and petrol stations are now commonplace.

Dealers said the central bank intervened to stem the decline in the pound, which had closed Tuesday at 99.00/99.30, by selling an undisclosed amount of dollars.

"This is bound to mean prices will go up even further," said one housewife. "We will need wheel barrows to carry cash to the shops. And few of us have the cash to cope with that."

A report published by the General Labour Federation, which groups local trade unions, said consumer prices rose 162.2 per cent in the 12 months ending Dec. 31.

"Lebanon's pre-war strength was as a centre for world finance. The country has no major natural resources and its industrial base is tiny," said one banker. "We import practically everything we need."

The value of our currency has always been based on confidence in our skills as entrepreneurs in a free market and there just isn't very much confidence left right now," he added.

Bankers said another reason for loss of confidence was the presence of U.S. warships off the Lebanese coast following the kidnapping of at least nine foreigners in west Beirut last month.

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Romanian energy crisis deepens

BELGRADE (R) — Romania has applied severe new restrictions on the use of fuel and power in a sign that the communist country's protracted winter energy crisis is biting deeper, according to Western diplomats contacted in Bucharest.

They said Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu had issued a decree, published in newspapers this week, reinforcing already tough restrictions on energy consumption.

The limits mean Romanians would be able to use barely any domestic appliances and, as one diplomat said, "they probably won't even be able to press their trousers."

The decree orders a 20 per cent cut in power consumption by households and a 30 per cent cut by organisations not involved in industrial production.

Extremely low quotas have been set for electricity use in domestic households, already suffering from no heating, low gas pressure and long power cuts.

The new regulations will bring added hardship as food shortages persist throughout the country, with much of Romania's food production exported to pay off its foreign debts.

Under the decree a two-person home in the city is allowed only 30 kilowatt hours of electricity per month, and a similar home in the countryside is allowed only 20 kilowatt hours.

A home of three to four persons is allowed 47 kilowatt hours in the city and 33 in the countryside. Excesses will be fined.

People will be charged from 30 to 400 per cent more for each extra kilowatt hour of electricity they use, and from 50 to 300 per cent more for each extra cubic metre of gas.

People who exceed gas quotas by more than 10 per cent will have their supply cut off completely.

A family of three to four persons living in a three-room flat is allowed no more than 261 cubic metres of gas in February for its heating, hot water and cooking.

Diplomats said a family of this size would normally consume at least 1,000 cubic metres in a winter month.

They said newspapers had carried explanations to educate people on how much power is used by domestic appliances.

For example, a Romanian electric iron would use one kilowatt hour of power per hour of ironing.

"People won't be pressing their trousers. In fact, they probably won't use many appliances at all," a diplomat said.

The rules are expected to remain in force during March.

Private cars have already been banned from the streets in Romania this winter, and blackouts of six hours or more have been reported in various parts of the country.

Romania, which publishes very few precise figures about its economy, has suffered a serious energy crisis over the past three winters.

upward, while the local stock markets have nosedived.

"This is what is called runaway inflation. It is very, very scary," said Mr. Ercole Carpentieri, executive vice-president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Sao Paulo.

The crippling interest rates have made the business community increasingly restive.

A few dozen placard-carrying businessmen held a protest in Rio De Janeiro with a band playing the funeral march to symbolise their plight.

On Thursday thousands of farmers are due to arrive in the capital Brasilia to protest against the skyrocketing rates and low prices for their produce.

A spokesman for the farm lobby umbrella group, the Broad Front of Agriculture, told Reuters that if the current situation continued, Brazilian agriculture would be doomed.

Economic analysts say the prevailing rates, with some borrowers being charged 1,000 per cent, make it virtually impossible for the country to tackle one of its core problems — lack of new investment in industry.

"There is no legal activity in the world that I know that is going to have that rate of return," said one Western diplomat.

The budget covers expenses for the Curia, or the church's central administration, the church's diplomatic missions and the Vatican's radio station and daily newspaper.

However, a special commission of cardinals appointed by Pope John Paul II in 1981 to study the Vatican's financial problems is expected to meet here in March and a new budget could be approved at that time.

Last October, the Vatican forecast a record budget deficit of \$56 million for 1986, although the actual figure has not been released.

The Vatican said at the time that it was operating under an austerity budget that could not be trimmed further, that its financial patrimony was being steadily eroded and as a consequence there was an urgent need for help from Roman Catholics around the world.

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Four Arab states plan to set up joint steel plant

BAGHDAD (OPECNA) — Four Arab countries — Iraq, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt — are planning to set up a joint steel plant with an annual production capacity of 120,000 tonnes.

Feasibility studies for the venture were discussed at a recent meeting here sponsored by the Baghdad-based Arab Industrial Development Organisation (AIDO) and the Algiers-based Arab Iron and Steel Federation.

It was agreed that such a plant was needed to meet future demand for steel products in the Arab World. The project is likely to take several years to complete, according to officials.

With the exception of Egypt, all the countries involved in the proposal are members of OPEC.

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Aquino clips her powers by proclaiming new constitution

MANILA (R) — President Corazon Aquino Wednesday proclaimed a new constitution that takes away her near-dictatorial powers and restores her country to full democracy for the first time in 14 years.

Mrs. Aquino signed the proclamation at a solemn ceremony in the same chandelied presidential palace hall where former ruler Ferdinand Marcos exactly a year ago, tried to rally his nation just before fleeing into exile in Hawaii.

"The night is over. The day is here. Let us finally put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light," Mrs. Aquino said quoting from St. Paul after she wrote down her name, using eight gold pens.

She later gave away seven of the pens to her top aides, keeping

one herself.

The 22,000-word constitution, which curbs the presidential right to declare martial law and sets the stage for legislative and local elections next summer, was approved by a massive vote of 16,622,111 in favour and 4,953,375 against in a plebiscite on Feb. 2.

Mrs. Aquino hopes to use her landslide victory in the plebiscite to assert her full authority over a nation battered by economic problems, coup plots and a resurgent 18-year Communist insurgency.

Defence Minister Rafael Iloilo, who attended the ceremony, told Reuters the sword of war Mrs. Aquino had promised to unsheath against insurgents if her peace efforts failed "is sharper now than ever."

She issued the proclamation the day after 14 people — 11 soldiers, an army lieutenant and two civilians — were killed in the first major flareup of fighting after a 60-day ceasefire.

Gen. Iloilo said "there could be intensified fighting, it's hard to say" the days ahead with the resumption of skirmishes in the countryside.

Applause burst across the hall when election commission Chairman Ramon Felipe banded Mrs. Aquino the official plebiscite results, saying "our people have spoken."

After declaring the charter "duly ratified by the Filipino people and in full force as of today," the 54-year-old president stood before supreme court Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, placed her left hand on a black, gilt-edged family Bible and swore "to preserve and defend the constitution."

She later administered the same oath of allegiance to 206 officials, including her cabinet ministers, gathered in front of her.

Mrs. Aquino spoke on the same spot, overlooking the River Pasig, where Marcos almost a year ago to the day was sworn in as president following a fraud-marred election.

Hours later, Marcos fled after his government collapsed in the face of a civilian-backed

Punjab chief minister excommunicated

NEW DELHI (R) — The high priests of the Sikh faith excommunicated Punjab's embattled chief minister Wednesday for defying their edict to dissolve his moderate wing of the state's ruling Akali Dal (Party).

The priests' decision was announced in the Sikh holy city Amritsar and followed Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala's refusal to heed a summons to appear before the priests at 2 p.m. (0830 GMT).

The chief minister had been ordered to the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the Sikhs' holiest shrine, to answer charges. But the chief minister instead sent an aide with a written answer.

Alkali Dal members loyal to Mr. Barnala passed a resolution late Tuesday urging him to defy the order from the high priests, traditionally the supreme authority for India's 14 million Sikhs.

The resolution seemed likely to set priest and politician on a collision course in the violence-racked north Indian state where politics and religion have traditionally gone hand in hand.

The high priests declared Mr. Barnala a sinner on Monday for refusing to dissolve his highly-factionalised party to permit the formation of a new unified Akali Dal including his more hardline Sikh political opponents.

The priests, who sit in the

Golden Temple complex, ordered Mr. Barnala to appear in person with a written explanation of his actions and told all Sikhs to shun him until he complied.

Mr. Barnala's party has shrunk to a 47 minority in the 115-member Punjab Assembly surviving only with the support of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party and other opposition groups.

Mr. Gandhi, while critical, has supported Mr. Barnala and sent thousands of paramilitary police into Punjab to combat Sikh separatist violence which claimed more than 650 lives last year.

Mr. Barnala's supporters said he had responded to the priests as party president in line with party resolutions and was guilty of no personal misconduct. The resolution instructed him to send a written reply to the priests in those terms.

"Each and every one of us is responsible for the stand we have taken," the resolution said, declaring that they had acted in the interests of the party, the state of Punjab and the Indian nation.

The Akali Dal, the main Sikh political party since the 1920s, has splintered under Mr. Barnala's 17-month leadership into moderates and hardliners demanding greater concessions for Sikhs from New Delhi.

Bangladeshi troops, villagers repulse guerrilla attacks

DHAKA (R) — Security forces and villagers armed with bows and arrows have repulsed an attack by separatist tribal guerrillas in southern Bangladesh, officials said Wednesday.

They said nearly 100 heavily-armed rebels from the outlawed Shanti Bahini (peace force) ringed a crowded village in Chittagong Hill Tracts Tuesday night and began firing indiscriminately with machine guns and other automatic weapons.

The rebels also set many houses ablaze, forcing hundreds of panicked villagers to flee into nearby jungles.

Those who stayed behind used bows and arrows to help police and paramilitary forces repulse the attack.

Local officials told reporters the rebels retreated after a heavy exchange of gunfire which lasted

nearly 20 minutes, but they were unable to say if there were any casualties.

The Shanti Bahini attack came after the government said Tuesday it had formed a task force to step up its fight against the rebels.

Military sources in the port city of Chittagong told Reuters the task force, headed by Brigadier Mohammad Shahjahan, would oversee an indefinite night curfew imposed along the border with India.

Bangladesh says Shanti Bahini operates from camps in the north eastern Indian state of Tripura and receives arms and training from the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). India denies the charges.

Local officials said the guerrillas slip into the heavily-forested hill tracts at night under cover fire from the BSF.

Countries asked to take part in U.S. 'supercollider'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Proposals for participation in the United States "supercollider" atomic research project have been extended to countries throughout the world, a U.S. government official said.

The administration of President Ronald Reagan hopes other nations will want to contribute technology, equipment or funds to the \$4.4 billion effort, said Dr. Alvin W. Trivelpiece, director of energy research for the Energy Department.

Dr. Trivelpiece told a gathering of foreign correspondents Tuesday that there have been informal talks with scientists from Japan and some other countries, but that no formal replies have been received.

Foreign countries including the Soviet Union, he said, are invited to "decide what interest they have, what contribution they can make and what they expect in return." Even modest proposals would be welcome, he said.

Dr. Trivelpiece said Soviet collaboration on the giant atom-smasher would not necessarily be

unique.

"We have a fundamental protocol with the Soviet Union" on basic research topics such as the fundamental properties of matter, that could cover the supercollider, he said.

Under the U.S.-Soviet protocol, he said, Soviet scientists have worked in the United States "even during periods of political stress." Soviets have visited the Fermi Laboratory near Chicago, site of the largest particle accelerator in the world and mentioned as a possible location for the larger facility.

In this field of research, "hardly any paper is done by the scientists of one country any more, making it truly an international activity," Dr. Trivelpiece said. Thus, he said, the Soviets "can certainly make suggestions if they want to cooperate, and if so, how."

Earlier, Energy Secretary John S. Herrington told a news conference that the government would try to select a site by January 1989 for the \$4.4 billion supercollider.

Dublin opposition will not scrap Anglo-Irish pact

DUBLIN (R) — Opposition leader Charles Haughey, tipped by opinion polls to win next week's Irish election, has confirmed that a controversial Anglo-Irish accord on Northern Ireland would not be abandoned if he returns to power.

Mr. Haughey, a hardline Republican, was once a staunch opponent of the 1985 accord, which gives Dublin a consultative voice in the running of the British-ruled province, torn by sectarian strife.

But he has since softened his stance and said in a radio phone-in programme Tuesday: "When we come into office, we will have to accept the situation as we find it."

He added: "Democratic Western governments have to accept agreements which are there when they come in. Civilised governments cannot renege on an international agreement signed by their predecessors — they have to honour it."

The agreement, widely regarded as the major achievement of Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald, has been generally wel-

comed by the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland.

Under its provisions, ministers from both sides of the border meet to discuss everything from cross-border security to court reform. It is fiercely opposed by Protestant hardliners in the province, who see it as a British government sell-out on the road to unification with the Irish Republic.

Mr. Haughey said his party Fianna Fail would stick to the accord if returned to power next Tuesday but would also "strive through political and diplomatic action to see if we can change those constitutional implications to which we take objection."

Opinion polls show only four per cent of the electorate consider "the national question" of Northern Ireland a major election issue. The campaign for the Feb. 17 poll has been dominated by the crisis in the economy. Ireland's national debt has soared, unemployment has reached almost 20 per cent and up to 30,000 young people a year are emigrating to the United States, Australia and Britain.

Sri Lanka says Jaffna can be captured in days

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan government said Wednesday its troops could capture the Tamil rebels stronghold of Jaffna within days if the separatist guerrillas refused to negotiate an end to fighting.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told state radio that security forces were gaining ground on the Jaffna peninsula, in the north of the island, in a drive against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas.

"If the LTTE want a military solution, Jaffna can be captured within days," he said.

"The operation in Jaffna is for the LTTE to come to the negotiating table (and) to show them that they are militarily weak."

Mr. Athulathmudali told the government-controlled newspaper

er Daily News in an interview published Wednesday that the troops were advancing in Jaffna, 320 kilometres north of Colombo, and the northern town of Mannar at a rate of 100 metres a day.

"We have only 1,400 metres more (in Jaffna) to capture," he said.

"If the forces occupy 100 metres and stabilise control over this area each day, that will be adequate."

Mr. Athulathmudali said nearly 5,000 troops were combing jungles in northern and eastern areas of Sri Lanka to flush out rebels in a widespread offensive, now in its seventh day.

The guerrillas are fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

3 youths charged with New York racial murder

NEW YORK (AP) — Three teen-agers were charged with murder and nine others with lesser crimes in a racial attack in which a white mob beat three black men and chased one, off into traffic, where he was killed by a car.

The suspects, ages 16 to 18, surrendered Tuesday morning to police in the New York City Borough of Queens, where the attack took place on Dec. 20.

The 12 defendants, accompanied to state supreme court by parents and lawyers, were arraigned before Justice Alfred D. Lerner. All pleaded innocent.

Two of the three youths charged with murder Tuesday had previously faced the same charge until a judge dropped it for lack of testimony by the sur-

vivors of the attack.

Those charged with murder again were Jon Lester and Scott Kern, both 17.

The other youth charged with murder was Robert Riley, 17, who was described by special prosecutor Charles J. Hynes as the only defendant who cooperated in the investigation.

The indictment charged that Kern, Lester and Riley caused the death of Michael Griffith, 23, by chasing him and forcing him to: an onto a highway, where he was struck by a car and killed.

The indictment also charged that several defendants attempted to kill Cedric Sandiford, 36, by striking him in the head with a hat and kicking and punching him. The third victim of the attack was Timothy Grimes, 19.

EC-C. American talks end as discord continues

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — A peace-seeking conference of European Community (EC) and Central American nations has ended after two days of squabbling among the Central Americans and with few positive results, European delegates said.

A communique was delayed as Nicaragua and its pro-U.S. neighbours argued over the wording. In its final form the declaration limited itself to expressions of support for the Contadora initiative and called on all countries with interests in the region to work for a lasting peace.

It also stressed the need for greater economic cooperation with both Europe and among the Central American countries themselves.

The EC pledged to substantially increase its aid to the region through technical support and direct financing.

The Europeans have repeatedly said the negotiated peace sought by the Contadora group of Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela is the only way to resolve the dangerous tensions in Central America.

But they have stressed that no amount of third party diplomacy can succeed if the five countries themselves are unable to reach agreement.

Just how far apart the two factions are was made painfully clear, delegates said, when El Salvador launched a blistering attack on the Soviet-backed Sandinista government shortly after the meeting began.

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta accused Managua of trying to destabilise his country by supporting the leftist rebels against the El Salvador has been fighting a seven-year-old civil war.

The Sandinistas were determined to export their revolution and subvert Central America with the help of Cuba, he added.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto in turn accused El Salvador of being a U.S. puppet. He also attacked the principle behind this weekend's meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica, designed to consider a new peace plan for the region.

"It is unacceptable that other countries should gather together to tell us what to do with our internal affairs," he told reporters Tuesday.

The plan reportedly calls for the Sandinistas to open dialogue with their internal opposition on the restoration of democratic freedoms.

"Nicaragua is the most democratic country in Central America," Mr. D'Escoto said.

European delegates said there was a growing sense of frustration among the 12 EC countries in the face of the increasing polarisation of right and left-wing positions in Central America.

"I think some of them were wondering here what was the point of our trying to help," said one senior envoy.

There were also signs the Europeans are looking for more positive and concrete actions towards peace, perhaps to include specific timetables for direct negotiations.

Delegates said The Netherlands particularly urged a more pragmatic approach in closed-door sessions Tuesday.

They also noted a hardening of Europe's attitude towards the Nicaraguans who have tightened their clampdown on civil liberties due to the perceived threat from the U.S.-financed contra rebels.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ertson

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By Peter Swift

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